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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975  
(25 and 26 October 2001)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF  
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10.00 hours on Thursday, 25 October 2001 <sup>\*/</sup>**

- |    |                                    |  |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda             | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/62  |
| 2. | Status of the TIR Convention, 1975 | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/15<br>ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.20<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59 |

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<sup>\*/</sup> For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room.

Before the meeting, missing documents may be obtained directly from the UNECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; e-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the Internet web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division ([http://www.unece.org/trans/new\\_tir/welctir](http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir)). During the meeting, documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.111, 1st floor, Palais des Nations).

In accordance with the accreditation procedures applicable for all meetings held at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to fill-in the attached registration form (also available from the web site of the UNECE ([www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org))) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest one week before the session to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41-22-917-0039) or by e-mail (martin.magold@unece.org). In Geneva, prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (see attached map), for issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please phone the UNECE secretariat (Int. 72453).

3. Activities and administration of the  
TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

- |       |   |                          |
|-------|---|--------------------------|
| (i)   | Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB  | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/6  |
| (ii)  | Example to agreements   | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/7  |
| (iii) | Introduction of new TIR Carnet forms  |                          |
| (iv)  | Identification (ID) number of the TIR<br>Carnet holder into the TIR Carnet and<br>Access to the International TIR<br>Data Bank (ITDB) | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13 |
| (v)   | Approved Customs offices for<br>TIR operations  | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/12 |
| (vi)  | National and regional TIR Workshops<br>and Seminars   |                          |
| (vii) | Information provided by the<br>TIR Secretary  | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/8  |

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

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|-------|--|--|
| (i)   | Approval of the financial<br>accounts for the year 2000                                      | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/9<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61                             |
| (ii)  | Budget of the TIRExB and the<br>TIR secretariat for the year 2001                            | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/10<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55 |
| (iii) | Budget proposal and cost plan for<br>the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat<br>for the year 2002 | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/11                       |

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|------|--|--|
| (iv) | Alternative sources of funding for<br>TIRExB and the TIR secretariat                               | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57                             |
| 4.   | Authorization for printing and distribution of<br>TIR Carnets in the year 2002                     | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53                             |
| 5.   | Authorization for the conclusion of an agreement<br>between the UNECE and the IRU                  | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49 |
| 6.   | Revision of the Convention   |  |
| (a)  | Implementation of Phase I<br>of the TIR revision process   | ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5                 |
| (b)  | Amendment proposals under<br>Phase II of the TIR revision process                                  | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59  |
| (c)  | Preparation of Phase III of the<br>TIR revision process  | TRANS/WP.30/2001/13<br>TRANS/WP.30/196<br>TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61          |
| 7.   | Other proposals for amendments<br>to the Convention  |  |
| (a)  | Draft amendment to Article 26  | TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/14   |
| (b)  | Other amendment proposals  |  |
| 8.   | Application of the Convention  |  |
|      | Comments adopted by the UNECE<br>Working Party on Customs Questions<br>affecting Transport (WP.30) | TRANS/WP.30/196<br>TRANS/WP.30/194                                     |
| 9.   | TIR Handbook   | UNECE Publication  |

10. TIR Web Site

[www.unece.org/trans/new\\_tir/welctir.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)

11. Other business

(a) Date of next session

TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57

TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53

(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents

12. Adoption of the report

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Annexes

Annex 1: Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975 and countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established

Annex 2: Comments for inclusion into the TIR Handbook

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) will hold its ninety-ninth session, in conjunction with the present session of the Administrative Committee, from 23 to 26 October 2001, starting at 10.00 hours on Tuesday, 23 October 2001 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The UNECE Working Party will consider a large number of issues in relation to the revision of the TIR Convention and its application. Therefore, representatives of Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975, are strongly recommended to participate also in the sessions of the UNECE Working Party. The agenda as well as other relevant documents for the session of the UNECE Working Party may be obtained directly from the UN/ECE secretariat or from the UNECE TIR web site (see page 1).

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It is recalled that, according to Annex 8, Article 6 of the TIR Convention, 1975, "a quorum consisting of not less than one third of the States which are Contracting Parties is required for the purposes of taking decisions." As of 1 August 2001 the number of States, Contracting Parties to the Convention is sixty-three.

### 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider and adopt the agenda of its present session as prepared by the UNECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/62).

### 2. STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

The Committee will be informed of the situation concerning the geographical scope and the number of Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, 1975. A list of Contracting Parties to the Convention as well as of countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established is contained in annex 1 to this agenda. Contracting Parties may wish to verify these listings.

On 12 February 2001, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has issued the following Depositary Notifications:

Depositary Notification C.N.36.2001.TREATIES-1

Amendment proposals adopted by the Administrative Committee comprising all amendment proposals prepared under Phase II of the TIR revision process (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 3). These amendments will come into force 3 months after the expiry of a period of 12 months following the date of issuance of the Depositary Notification during which no objection to the proposed amendments have been raised, i.e. on 12 May 2002. No objections have been lodged so far.

Interpretations (comments) to the proposed amendments and to other related provisions in the TIR Convention, as adopted by UNECE Working Party WP.30, are contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 5.

Depositary Notification C.N.37.2001.TREATIES-2

Amendment proposals adopted by the Administrative Committee relating to amendments on vehicles and containers with sliding sheets and to Article 3 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, annex 4).

The amendments with regard to vehicles and containers with sliding sheets have come into force on 12 June 2001 as stipulated in Depositary Notification C.N.503.2001.TREATIES-4 dated 23 May 2001. Corrections to these amendments are contained in Depositary Notification C.N.688.2001.TREATIES-4, dated 24 July 2001. These corrected amendments are contained in UNECE Document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.20 (available at the session in English, French, Russian and Spanish). An explanatory note to the effected corrections prepared by the secretariat is contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/15-TRANS/WP.30/2001/17.

The amendments with regard to Article 3 of the Convention will come into force 3 months after the expiry of a period of 12 months following the date of issuance of the Depositary Notification during which no objection to the proposed amendments have been raised, i.e. on 12 May 2002. No objections have been lodged so far.

Detailed information on the status of the Convention as well as on the various Depositary Notifications are available on the UNECE TIR web site ([www.unece.org/trans/new\\_tir/welctir.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)) under “News” and under “Legal Instruments - Depositary Notifications”.

### **3. ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)**

#### **(a) Activities of the TIRExB**

##### **(i) Report by the Chairman of the TIRExB**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall report on its activities at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee.

Following the decision of the Administrative Committee, at its twenty-seventh session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 14-15), that the TIRExB should report on its activities at each of its sessions and that efforts should be made to make, at least, the reports of the sessions of the TIRExB available to all Contracting Parties, possibly in the three working languages of the Administrative Committee, the UNECE secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIRExB at its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions held in January, February and May/June 2001 respectively for information and endorsement of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/6).

Further information on recent activities of the TIRExB will be provided by the Chairman of the TIRExB during the session.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider these reports and the supplementary information and provide guidance on future activities and priorities of work of the TIRExB.

##### **(ii) Example to agreements**

The TIRExB, at its tenth session, has finalized work on model agreements covering (a) the authorization of national associations, granted unilaterally by competent authorities and (b) the written agreement or any other legal instrument, as referred to in Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1 (e) of the Convention, between the national association and the competent authorities.

The objective of these model agreements is to provide guidance on the legal acts to be prepared and concluded between national guaranteeing associations and national Customs authorities, particularly for those countries that plan to or have only recently acceded to the Convention and to harmonize the application of the Convention at the national level. The model agreements address the rights and obligations of the competent authorities and of the national associations as provided for in Article 6 and Annex 9 of the Convention.

The Administrative Committee may wish to review and endorse the model agreements prepared by the TIRExB as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/7-TRANS/WP.30/2001/14.

**(iii) Introduction of new TIR Carnet forms**

The TIRExB, at its tenth session, was informed that, due to the replacement of the paper manufacturer for TIR Carnets in September 2001, the IRU would need to modify some of the security elements in the TIR Carnet forms. On that occasion, the IRU also wished to introduce a slightly modified layout of the TIR Carnet containing also additional protective features to impede falsification of TIR Carnets. In line with Annex 8, Article 10, paragraph (a) of the Convention and the Terms of Reference of the TIRExB, the Board approved a revised layout of a new TIR Carnet form which does not affect the legal provisions of the Convention.

The TIRExB shared the view of the IRU that, given the inevitable changes of security elements to happen in September 2001, the new layout of the TIR Carnet should be introduced at the same time, possibly by 30 September 2001. In order not to create confusion among Customs officials, the Board requested (a) the IRU to furnish Customs authorities of all Contracting Parties utilizing the TIR procedure with a number of sample TIR Carnets well in advance to the introduction of the new layout and (b) the TIR secretariat to distribute among Contracting Parties detailed descriptions of the present and new layouts of the TIR Carnet, including protective elements.

The Committee may wish to be informed about the introduction of the new TIR Carnet forms. Detailed information on the special features of the new TIR Carnet forms will be transmitted by the IRU and the TIR secretariat to national associations and concerned Customs authorities. Relevant information will also be available as of mid-September on the TIR web site ([www.unece.org/trans/new\\_tir/welctir.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)).

**(iv) Identification (ID) number of the TIR Carnet holder and access to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)**

The TIRExB is, *inter alia*, responsible for the coordination and the exchange of intelligence and other information among competent authorities of Contracting Parties as well as between competent authorities of Contracting Parties, national associations and international organizations. To this end, the TIRExB has been instructed to establish and maintain an international data bank on authorized TIR Carnet holders, accessible to all Contracting Parties. The International TIR Data Bank (ITDB), operated by the TIR secretariat, contains, at present, information on more than 32,000 persons authorized to utilize the TIR system.



Following the adoption on 20 October 2000 of the Recommendation by the Administrative Committee on the introduction of an identification (ID) number of the TIR Carnet holder in the TIR Carnet and its general application as of 1 April 2001, the TIRExB, at its tenth session, decided to provide off-line access to the information contained in the ITDB.

As a first step, access to the ITDB is limited to authorized TIR Customs focal points only, i.e. to Customs officials who are registered by the TIR secretariat and who are responsible for contacts between Customs authorities, the TIR secretariat, national associations and the IRU on the application of the TIR procedure. Customs focal points may obtain so-called "contact information" of authorized TIR Carnet holders (ID number of the TIR Carnet holder, name of person(s)/enterprise, business address, name and telephone, fax number and/or e-mail address of contact point of the person(s)/enterprise). The objective of the data provided is to facilitate inquiry procedures by Customs authorities following termination of the TIR procedure. At a later stage, wider access, possibly on-line, to the ITDB will be considered.

In line with this decision of the TIRExB, the TIR Secretary has transmitted detailed information on the procedures for access to the ITDB as well as a standard data request form to the TIR Customs focal points at the end of June 2001.

As requested by the TIRExB, the Administrative Committee may wish to consider and approve the approach taken by the TIRExB to provide access to the ITDB, as a first step for inquiry procedures only. As a basis for discussion, the TIR Secretary has prepared document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/13 providing information on the legal mandate and the issues to be addressed in this read.

**(v) Approved Customs offices for TIR operations**

The TIRExB, as part of its Terms of Reference, has studied ways and means to establish and maintain an international data bank of approved Customs offices for accomplishing TIR operations available on-line for all interested parties. While the publication of authorized Customs offices is an obligation for all Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 45 of the Convention, it is often difficult for the transport industry to obtain such information, particularly from outside the country concerned.

With a view to obtaining a basis for rational decision-making on this matter, the TIR Secretary, at the request of the TIRExB, has made a survey among Contracting Parties on this question. Considering the results of this survey, the TIRExB, at its tenth session, proposed that, as a first step, the TIR secretariat could establish an international web site providing links to Customs sites providing such information. At a later stage, additional information available at the TIR secretariat could be added on the basis of standard data elements.

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider this issue on the basis of a document prepared by the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/12).

**(vi) National and regional TIR Workshops and Seminars**

In accordance with its mandate, the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, in cooperation with the Federal Customs Administration of Yugoslavia, have organized a national TIR training workshop for senior Customs official and heads of Customs offices. The workshop was held at Belgrade on 25 and 26 July 2001 with the objective to provide for a re-introduction of the TIR system in Yugoslavia by October 2001.

Following the successful conclusion of the Regional Seminar in Amman (Jordan) in November 2000 for the countries of the Middle East and in line with the views expressed by the Administrative Committee at its thirtieth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, paras. 20 and 21), the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat will organize a second Regional Seminar for the countries of Central Asia, the Transcaucasus and the Black Sea region in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 2 and 3 October 2001.

The Administrative Committee will be informed in detail about these events.

**(vii) Information provided by the TIR Secretary**

Following considerations of the Administrative Committee, at its thirtieth session, on the activities of the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, para. 16) and as requested by the TIRExB at its tenth session, the TIR Secretary has prepared a short report on its activities for consideration by the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/8).

(b) **Administration of the TIRExB**

(i) **Approval of the final accounts for the year 2000**

The Administrative Committee, at its spring session, was informed that the final accounts of the TIRExB for the year 2000 had not yet been established by the competent Finance Services of the United Nations. It therefore decided, as in the past, to formally approve the final accounts for the year 2000 at its October 2001 session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, para. 24).

The Administrative Committee may wish to formally approve the final accounts of the TIRExB for the year 2000 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/9.

(ii) **Budget of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2001**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention, the TIRExB shall submit audited accounts to the Administrative Committee at least once a year or at the request of the Administrative Committee. Furthermore, the agreement concluded between the IRU and the UNECE for the year 2000 on the transfer of funds to the TIR Trust Fund, established by the UNECE in accordance with the decision of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, para. 31), provides for the submission of an annual report to the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2).

Since the budget year will only be completed on 31 December 2001, financial statements showing the funds received and expended for the TIRExB in 2001, in line with the internal and external auditing procedures of the United Nations, are not yet available.

However, in order to provide transparency about the functioning and financing of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/10 provides an overview of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 31 July 2001.

The complete and final accounts for 2001 are planned to be submitted for approval by the Administrative Committee at its spring session in February 2002.

**(iii) Budget proposal and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2002**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention, the TIRExB has prepared a budget proposal and a cost plan providing for its operation in the year 2002. The budget proposal and cost plan, as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11, is expected to be finalized and approved by the TIRExB at its eleventh session (18 and 19 October 2001). Modifications, if any, decided upon by the TIRExB at this session will be reflected in a corrigendum to this document.

The budget proposal and cost plan for the year 2002 differs from the approved budget and cost plan of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2001 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/11 and Corr.1) in as much it is proposed to recruit, for the year 2002, in addition to the present members of the TIR secretariat, an information technology specialist/programmer. His/her main duties will be to devise, install and maintain, together with the present EDI specialist of the UNECE, on-line access to the International TIR Data Bank (ITDB) and to install and maintain a local area network to streamline further the work of the TIR secretariat.

The number of regular Customs and administrative professionals as well as General Service staff constituting the TIR secretariat, together with the TIR Secretary whose costs are born by the regular budget of the UNECE, will remain unchanged.

The amount of the resulting levy on each TIR Carnet and the procedure for its collection will be contained in an annex to the agreement to be concluded between the UNECE and the IRU which will be submitted to the Administrative Committee for endorsement at its session in spring 2002 (see agenda item 5).

The Administrative Committee may wish to approve the budget proposal and cost plan for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2002 as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11.

**(iv) Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2003**

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions, it had decided to continue the initial funding arrangements for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention and to make efforts to have the costs for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat included into the Regular Budget of the United Nations as of the year 2003 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 36; (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, paras. 23-25).

More details on the required procedures will be provided, if available, by the UNECE secretariat at the session.

**4. AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS IN THE YEAR 2002**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention, the TIRExB shall supervise the centralized printing and distribution to the associations of TIR Carnets which may be performed by an agreed international organization as referred to in Article 6 of the Convention. At its twenty-sixth session the Administrative Committee decided on the following procedure and conditions in this respect:

At its annual spring sessions, the Administrative Committee will authorize an international organization to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for the following year in accordance with Annex 8, Article 10 (b) of the Convention under the condition that:

- (a) the concerned international organization declares in writing its acceptance of this authorization within 30 days following the decision of the Administrative Committee;
- (b) on the basis of the relevant decisions of the Administrative Committee at its annual autumn session (adoption of the budget for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, etc.), the required transfer of funds, in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention, will have been effected by the authorized international organization by 15 November each year for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat during the following year (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, para. 20).

In line with the above decision, the Administrative Committee, at its spring session in 2000 authorized the IRU to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for a period of five years as of the year 2001 and to finance, as long as its expenses are not covered by the Regular Budget of the United Nations, the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 29).

In a communication received from the Secretary-General of the IRU dated 22 March 2000, the IRU has declared its acceptance of the authorization by the Administrative Committee to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets for a period of five years (2001-2005). Therefore, as long as the above conditions of the Administrative Committee are fulfilled, the IRU will be authorized to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2002.

The Administrative Committee may wish to take note and confirm this information.

## **5. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNECE AND THE IRU**

In line with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session on the procedure for the collection of a levy on TIR Carnets for the financing of the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49, para. 31 (ii)), the Administrative Committee may wish to authorize the UNECE secretariat to negotiate and arrange with the IRU the required arrangements for the transfer of funds (a) in accordance with Annex 8, Article 13 of the Convention; (b) on the basis of the approved budget for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2002 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/11) and (c) in line with the requirements for authorization of an international organization to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 29).

The relevant UNECE/IRU Agreement will be transmitted to the forthcoming session of the Administrative Committee in spring 2002 for endorsement.

## **6. REVISION OF THE CONVENTION**

### **(a) Implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process**

The Administrative Committee may wish to continue its exchange of views on the difficulties that may arise in the application of the provisions that have come into force through Phase I of the TIR revision process. The relevant amendments had come into force on 17 February 1999 and the text of these provisions is contained in document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1.

The Administrative Committee may wish to reiterate that Contracting Parties are expected to fully comply with the provisions of the revised Convention, also with regard to the transmission to the TIRExB, within the stipulated time frames, of the following information (refer also to document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5):

- (a) A certified copy of the written agreement or any other legal instrument between the competent authorities (Customs) and the national association as well as any modifications thereto;
- (b) A certified copy of the insurance or financial guarantee contract as well as any modifications thereto;
- (c) A copy of the annually to be renewed insurance certificate;
- (d) The particulars of each person authorized to use TIR Carnets;
- (e) A complete list of all persons authorized to use TIR Carnets, as per 31 December each year.

The Administrative Committee may also wish to stress once more that it was very important, in line with Article 38, paragraph 2 and Article 42 bis of the Convention, to inform the TIRExB immediately of any exclusions from the operation of the Convention and of any national control measures planned to be taken by competent national authorities.

In this context, the Administrative Committee may also wish to be informed of activities undertaken by the TIR Secretary to further improve the functioning of the so-called electronic SAFETIR system operated by the IRU on the basis of Article 42 bis of the Convention.

**(b) Amendment proposals under Phase II of the TIR revision process**

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-ninth session, it had adopted the complete package of amendment proposals which had been prepared by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) under Phase II of the TIR revision process. These amendment proposals are contained in annex 3 to the report on its twenty-ninth session together with comments thereto contained in annex 5 to this report (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, para. 46).

Detailed information on the legal status of the amendment proposals is provided under agenda item 2. The Administrative Committee may wish to have an exchange of views on the required national procedures and on possible difficulties in the implementation of the amendments.

**(c) Preparation of Phase III of the TIR revision process**

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its thirtieth session, it had agreed that the activities undertaken under Phase III of the TIR revision process should be separated into short-term priorities, such as revision of the TIR Carnet, increase in the number of loading and un-loading places, etc.) and into long-term priorities (use of new technologies, etc.) (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/61, paras. 42 and 43).

The Administrative Committee will be informed about progress made on these issues in the UNECE Working Party (TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 34-49) and in its ad hoc group of experts on the computerization of the TIR procedures (TRANS/WP.30/2001/13). The Administrative Committee may wish to provide guidance on the approach and working methods to be taken in order to arrive at tangible solutions in due course.

**7. OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION**

**(a) Draft amendment to Article 26**

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider a proposed amendment to Article 26, paragraph 1 of the Convention providing clarification on the procedures to be applied in countries following suspension of a TIR procedure in another country. It may also consider a comment on the application of this article for Contracting Parties in which no approved guaranteeing associations exists. Relevant proposals by the secretariat are contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2001/14.

The UNECE Working Party (WP.30) has considered this issue at several sessions on the basis of documentation provided by Hungary and the European Community. Relevant background information is contained in the following documents: TRANS/WP.30/194, paras. 56-58; TRANS/WP.30/2001/1; TRANS/WP.30/190, para. 52; TRANS/WP.30/2000/15; TRANS/WP.30/2000/7; TRANS/WP.30/188, para. 58; TRANS/WP.30/186, para. 70.



**(b) Other amendment proposals**

To date the UNECE secretariat has not received any other proposals for amendments to the Convention. Any amendment that may be submitted in due time before the session will be circulated.

**8. APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**Comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)**

The Administrative Committee may wish to consider the following comments which have been prepared and adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) at its ninety-seventh and ninety-eighth sessions. These comments relate to Article 23 of the Convention on the use of escorts (TRANS/WP.30/194, paras. 62-64) and to Articles 5 and 46 of the Convention on the possibilities of examinations at Customs offices en route at the request of transport operators (TRANS/WP.30/196, paras. 66 and 67).

These comments for inclusion into the TIR Handbook are set out in annex 2 to this agenda for endorsement by the Administrative Committee.

**9. TIR HANDBOOK**

The Administrative Committee may wish to note that the 1999 TIR Handbook, that has been issued by the UNECE and the TIR secretariats in October 1999, has been updated to take account of new developments, recently adopted comments, modified recommendations, etc. The TIR Handbook contains the latest amendments to the Convention as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UNECE Working Party (WP.30) and the Administrative Committee. It is available in a hard cover version in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Further language versions are available on the TIR web site. A limited number of hard cover copies are available free of charge from the UNECE or TIR secretariats.

An update of the TIR Handbook will be distributed at the session.

**10. TIR WEB SITE** ([www.unece.org/trans/new\\_tir/welctir.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm)).

The lay-out and content of the UNECE TIR web site has been modified to improve its user friendliness. In addition to the numerous language versions of the TIR Handbook, the UNECE TIR web site provides up-to-date information on the administration and application of the TIR Convention. It contains the latest information on legal interpretations of the TIR Convention, on Depositary Notifications and national and international control measures introduced by Customs authorities, the TIR Administrative Committee and the TIRExB. Furthermore, the TIR web site provides detailed information on all TIR Focal Points who may be contacted regarding questions on the application of the Convention at the national level.

The TIR web site also contains all documents and reports issued in connection with the sessions of the Administrative Committee and the UNECE Working Party (WP.30). These documents may be viewed and downloaded (PDF format) in English, French and Russian.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

**(a) Date of next session**

In accordance with the decisions of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/57, para. 44; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/53, para. 44) the UNECE secretariat has made the necessary arrangements to hold the forthcoming spring session of the Administrative Committee on 14 and 15 February 2002.

The Administrative Committee may wish to confirm the date of this thirty-second session.

**(b) Restriction on the distribution of documents**

The Administrative Committee may wish to decide on whether there should be any restriction with respect to the distribution of documents issued in connection with its current session.

**12. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the Convention, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report on its thirty-first session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UNECE secretariat. Given the present resource restrictions with regard to translation facilities, parts of the final report may not be available for adoption in all working languages.

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## **Annex 1**

### Contracting Parties

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Algeria  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Chile  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Indonesia  
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Jordan

### Countries with which a TIR transit operation can be established<sup>\*/</sup>

-  
Albania  
-  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
-  
Bulgaria  
-  
-  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
-  
Iran (Islamic Republic of) Ireland  
-  
Israel  
Italy  
Jordan

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<sup>\*/</sup> Based on information provided by the IRU

**Annex 1** (cont'd)Contracting Parties

(cont'd)

Kuwait  
 Kyrgyzstan  
 Latvia  
 Lebanon  
 Lithuania  
 Luxembourg  
 Malta  
 Morocco  
 Netherlands  
 Norway  
 Poland  
 Portugal  
 Republic of Korea  
 Republic of Moldova  
 Romania  
 Russian Federation  
 Slovakia  
 Slovenia  
 Spain  
 Sweden  
 Switzerland  
 Syrian Arab Republic  
 Tajikistan  
 The former Yugoslav Republic  
 of Macedonia  
 Tunisia  
 Turkey  
 Turkmenistan  
 Ukraine  
 United Kingdom  
 United States of America  
 Uruguay  
 Uzbekistan  
 Yugoslavia

European Community

Countries with which a TIR transitoperation can be established <sup>\*/</sup> (cont'd)

Kuwait  
 Kyrgyzstan  
 Latvia  
 Lebanon  
 Lithuania  
 Luxembourg  
 -  
 Morocco  
 Netherlands  
 Norway  
 Poland  
 Portugal  
 -  
 Republic of Moldova  
 Romania  
 Russian Federation  
 Slovakia  
 Slovenia  
 Spain  
 Sweden  
 Switzerland  
 Syrian Arab Republic  
 -  
 The former Yugoslav Republic  
 of Macedonia  
 Tunisia  
 Turkey  
 -  
 Ukraine  
 United Kingdom  
 -  
 -  
 Uzbekistan  
 -

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<sup>\*/</sup> Based on information provided by the IRU

Annex 2**TIR HANDBOOK**Comments**adopted by the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)  
for endorsement by the TIR Administrative Committee**Comment to Article 23: Escort of road vehicles

Add at the end of the comment, the following sentence:

*"....In such cases and in particular if no other written proof is provided to the carrier, Customs authorities are recommended, at the request of the carrier, to insert into counterfoil No. 1 of the TIR Carnet under item 5 "Miscellaneous" the word "Escort", followed by a short indication of the reasons which had led to the requirement for such escorts." {TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, .....; TRANS/WP.30/194, para. 61 }*

Comment to Article 5, paragraph 2

*"Examinations at Customs offices en route or spot checks at the request of transport operators*

*The exceptional cases, mentioned in Article 5, paragraph 2, include those where Customs authorities carry out examinations either at Customs offices en route or in the course of the journey on particular request from transport operators, who have suspicion that any irregularity has occurred in the course of the TIR transport. In such a situation Customs authorities should not refuse to carry out the examination unless they deem the request not to be justified.*

*In cases where the Customs authorities carry out an examination on request by the transport operator, the charges involved will be borne by the latter, in accordance with the provisions of Article 46, paragraph 1 and its comment, together with all other costs that may arise as a consequence of the examination." {TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, .....; TRANS/WP.30/196, annex 3 }*

Comment to Article 46, paragraph 1

*"Charges for Customs checks on request from the transport operator*

*Any charges related to Customs attendance on request from the transport operator, as laid down in the comment to Article 5 of the TIR Convention, shall be borne by him."*  
{TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/63, .....; TRANS/WP.30/196, annex 3 }



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

UN/ECE - Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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Participant

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Family Name

First Name

Mrs. ☐

Ms. ☐

Participation Category

Head of Delegation ☐

Delegation Member ☐

Observer Country ☐

...

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Observer Organization ☐

NGO (ECOSOC Accred.) ☐

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Participating From / Until

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Document Language Preference

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TO  
XXVII**

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POSTE  
BANK  
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H3 & F3**

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SECURITY  
SALLES  
4 TO 12  
IV TO XII**

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SERVICE  
SALLE  
C3 & A-R**

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SAFI**

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persons only  
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