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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

(24 and 25 February 2000)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH
SESSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.00 hours on 24 February 2000^{*/}**

^{*/} 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 ECE Transport Division (Fax: +41-22-917-0039; E-mail: martin.magold@unece.org). Documents may also be downloaded from the TIR Internet web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm). During the meeting, missing 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 Internet web site of the UN/ECE Transport Division) and to transmit the duly filled-in form at the latest two weeks before the session to the UN/ECE 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 contact the UN/ECE secretariat (91-72453).

GE.99-24627

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) will hold its ninety-fourth session, in conjunction with the present session of the Administrative Committee, from 21 to 25 February 2000, starting at 14.30 hours on Monday, 21 February 2000 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The UN/ECE 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 UN/ECE Working Party. The agenda as well as other relevant documents for the session of the UN/ECE Working Party may be obtained directly from the UN/ECE secretariat (see page 1).

* * *

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 December 1999 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 ECE secretariat (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/56).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with annex 8, article 3 of the Convention and in line with established practice, the Administrative Committee may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

3. STATUS OF THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975

The Committee will be informed of the situation concerning the 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 the annex to this agenda. Contracting Parties may wish to verify these listings.

The complete text of the amendments to the Convention that have entered into force on 17 February 1999 (Phase I of the TIR revision process) is contained in document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1 and is available in English, French, Russian and Spanish. This

text also includes the corrigendum to Depositary Notification C.N.433.1997.TREATIES-1 of 17 November 1997 that has been issued by the Legal Office of the United Nations as Depositary Notification C.N.336.1999.TREATIES-1 of 26 May 1999 to which no objection has been lodged.

The complete and permanently updated text of the Convention, including comments to its provisions is also available on the TIR web site (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm) in Czech, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish. At present the Convention is being translated also into Arabic and Chinese.

4. ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

(a) Activities of the TIRExB

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 and 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 UN/ECE secretariat has reproduced the reports of the TIRExB at its first three sessions held in 1999 for information of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/1). This document complements the information provided by the TIR secretariat at the twenty-seventh session of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/3).

A document containing the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of the TIRExB will be available at the session.

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 may wish to provide guidance on future activities to be undertaken by the TIRExB.

(b) Administration of the TIRExB

(i) Approval of the final accounts for the year 1999

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 UN/ECE for the year 1999 on the transfer of funds to the TIR Trust Fund, established by the UN/ECE in accordance with a decision of the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/49, paras. 30 and 31), provides for the submission of an annual report to the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/2).

In order to provide full transparency about the functioning and financing of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat, the UN/ECE secretariat has provided the Administrative Committee, at its twenty-seventh session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 17 and 18), with an overview of the financial situation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of 31 July 1999 together with an outlook on expenditures foreseen for the remainder of 1999 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/5). These figures and forecasts are still valid as of 1 December 1999.

The UN/ECE secretariat endeavours to transmit a report on the complete and final accounts of the TIRExB for 1999 to the present session of the Administrative Committee for approval.

In case that the competent Finance Services of the United Nations will not be able to finalize the report on the accounts for 1999 by mid-February 2000, this report will need to be transmitted to the next session of the Administrative Committee in autumn 2000.

In this context, the Administrative Committee may wish to note that the accounts of the TIR Trust Fund are exclusively subject to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the Financial Regulations, Rules and Directives of the United Nations and will be audited according to the schedule set by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

(ii) Budget and cost plan for the year 2000

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that the budget and the cost plan for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2000 has been approved by the Administrative Committee at its twenty-seventh session on the basis of a proposal made by the TIR Secretary (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/1999/6; TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 19-22).

The required funds for the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat for the year 2000 have been transmitted by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to the TIR Trust Fund on 12 November 1999.

(iii) Alternative sources of funding for the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat as of the year 2001

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 13, paragraph 1 and Annex 6, Explanatory Note 8.13.1-1 of the Convention, following an initial period of two years, the Contracting Parties to the Convention envisage the operation of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat to be financed through the Regular Budget of the United Nations. This does not preclude a prolongation of the initial funding arrangements should financing from the United Nations or alternative sources not be forthcoming.

The above provisions would provide for an inclusion of the operating cost of the TIRExB and the TIR secretariat into the Regular Budget of the UN/ECE for the biennium 2001-2002. At present, the relevant budget proposals are under consideration in the relevant bodies of the United Nations, in particular in the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) of the General Assembly (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, para. 23).

The Administrative Committee will be informed of the latest developments in this regard.

5. AUTHORIZATION FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TIR CARNETS

(a) Printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2000

Following the conclusion of an Agreement between the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and the UN/ECE as mandated by the Administrative Committee at its twenty-seventh session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, para. 31) and the fulfilment of the relevant conditions by 15 November 1999, the IRU is authorized to print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2000.

The Administrative Committee may wish to endorse the relevant UN/ECE-IRU Agreement as contained in document TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2.

(b) Authorization for printing and distribution of TIR Carnets in the year 2001

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.

The Administrative Committee, at its twenty-sixth session, decided that, at its annual spring session, it will authorize international organizations 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 this context, the Administrative Committee may wish to note that the IRU has indicated its willingness to continue to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets also in the year 2001 (refer to the UN/ECE-IRU Agreement for the year 2000 (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/2, paragraph 7).

Taking account of the application of the IRU, the Administrative Committee may wish to authorize international organizations to centrally print and distribute TIR Carnets in the year 2001.

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 possible difficulties that may have arisen during implementation of Phase I of the TIR revision process. The relevant amendments had come into force on 17 February 1999 (Depositary Notification C.N.800.1998.TREATIES-2) and the complete text of these provisions is contained in document ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1.

In particular, the Administrative Committee may wish to consider the application of Annex 9, Part I, paragraph 1 (f)(v) of the Convention on full liability coverage by national associations (refer also to the considerations and decisions taken in this respect by the Administrative Committee at its twenty-fifth session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/51, paras. 14-19). The Administrative Committee may also wish to have an exchange of views on the national procedures leading to authorization for national associations to issue and guarantee TIR Carnets (Annex 9, Part I of the Convention) and to the authorization for persons to utilize TIR Carnets (Annex 9, Part II of the Convention) (refer to the relevant provisions contained on pages 190 ff in the 1999 TIR Handbook).

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. The Administrative Committee may also wish to be informed of the functioning of the so-called electronic SAFETIR system operated by the IRU on the basis of Article 42 bis of the Convention.

As a basis for discussion, the UN/ECE secretariat has prepared a short document highlighting the issues at stake (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/5).

(b) Adoption of amendment proposals under Phase II of the TIR revision process

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-seventh session, it had been informed by the Chairman of the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) about progress made under Phase II of the TIR revision process (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 35-37).

On the basis of the considerations of the UN/ECE Working Party, the UN/ECE secretariat has prepared a document consolidating all amendment proposals prepared so far by the UN/EC Working Party under Phase II of the TIR revision process for consideration by the UN/ECE Working Party at its forthcoming session to be held from 21 to 25 February 2000 and for consideration and adoption by the Administrative Committee at its present session (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/3 - TRANS/WP.30/2000/2). In addition, the secretariat has prepared a short document on amendments relating to improper or fraudulent discharge of a TIR operation (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/7 - TRANS/WP.30/2000/9).

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

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that, at its twenty-seventh session, it agreed on the following elements for inclusion into Phase III of the TIR revision process:

- Revision of the TIR Carnet, including the insertion of additional data elements (ID. number, HS code, value of goods, etc.);
- Use of new technologies in TIR operations also with a view to reducing the delay in notifications of non-discharge;
- Increase in the number of places for loading and unloading under Customs seal (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/55, paras. 38 and 39).

Since phase III of the TIR revision process should start in the year 2000, following the conclusion of Phase II foreseen at the present session of the Administrative Committee, the Administrative Committee may wish to provide guidance on the approach to be taken in order to arrive at tangible solutions in due course. In particular, the Administrative Committee may wish to have an exchange of views on the possibilities of replacing the present paper based TIR Carnet by an electronic medium facilitating administration and control of the system as well as preventing fraudulent activities, such as falsification.

As a basis for discussion, the UN/ECE secretariat will prepare a short informal document on the elements to be revised.

7. OTHER PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

To date the UN/ECE 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

EDI control system for TIR Carnets: Modification of the Recommendation adopted by the Administrative Committee on 20 October 1995

The Administrative Committee may wish to recall that the basic principle of the present EDI control system for TIR Carnets lies in the confirmation of the termination of TIR operations by EDI to the international organization responsible for the printing and distribution of TIR Carnets. In the so-called "SAFETIR" system operated by the IRU on the basis of the Recommendation, relevant data as stipulated in the Recommendation are transmitted to the IRU in Geneva, following termination of a TIR operation at the Customs office of destination. In case of discrepancy between these data and the information contained in the relevant counterfoil in the TIR Carnet that has been returned by the transport operator to the issuing association or in case of non-availability of "SAFETIR" data, a request for reconciliation is issued by the IRU to the relevant Customs authority. This reconciliation procedure is necessary to obtain confirmation, correction or invalidation of the provided data. It will thus also assist Customs authorities in obtaining rapid and correct information on a possible non-termination of a TIR operation through the relevant IRU data bank.

At its ninety-third session, the Working Party agreed that there was a need to prepare and approve a harmonized reconciliation procedure. On the basis of a document prepared by the IRU (TRANS/WP.30/1999/11), the Working Party considered such a procedure as well as a standard inquiry format, endorsed in principle these proposals and requested the UN/ECE secretariat to prepare draft amendments in this respect to the relevant Recommendation of the TIR Administrative Committee of 20 October 1995 for consideration by the Working Party and the TIR Administrative Committee at its forthcoming sessions (TRANS/WP.30/186, paras. 46-49).

In accordance with this mandate, the UN/ECE secretariat has prepared a proposal for a modified text of the Recommendation for consideration and approval by the Working Party and the Administrative Committee (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2000/4 - TRANS/WP.30/2000/3).

9. TIR HANDBOOK

The Administrative Committee may wish to note that a new TIR Handbook has been issued by the UN/ECE and the TIR secretariats in October 1999. This 1999 TIR Handbook contains the latest amendments to the Convention as well as all relevant comments adopted by the UN/ECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) and the Administrative Committee.

The TIR Handbook is available in English, French and Russian and Spanish. A limited number of copies is available free of charge.

The complete and permanently updated text of the TIR Handbook is also available on the TIR Internet web site in the Czech, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish languages (www.unece.org/trans/new_tir/welctir.htm).

10. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Date of next session

The UN/ECE secretariat has made the necessary arrangements to hold the forthcoming autumn session of the Administrative Committee on 19 and 20 October 2000.

The Administrative Committee may wish to confirm the date of its next 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.

11. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

In accordance with Annex 8, Article 7 of the TIR Convention, 1975, the Administrative Committee will adopt the report on its twenty-seventh session on the basis of a draft prepared by the UN/ECE 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.

AnnexContracting PartiesCountries with which a TIR transit
operation can be established

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

Contracting Parties

(continued)

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 (continued)

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



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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Date:

Title of the Conference

UN/ECE - TIR Administrative Committee (WP.30/AC.2) 28. session

Delegation/Participant of country, Organization or Agency)

Participant: Name Mr. Mrs. Ms.

First name(s)

Participation Category

Head of delegation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Observer (organization)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delegation Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observer Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Participation from 24 to 25 February 2000			

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Family name (spouse)

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