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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

(Thirty-seventh session, 14 and 15 October 2004,
agenda item 3 (a) (ii))

**ACTIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)
REVISION OF THE CONVENTION**

Controlled access to the TIR procedure

ITDBonline+ project brief

Note by the TIR Secretary

A. ABSTRACT

1. The TIR Administrative Committee envisaged to increase the functionalities of the ITDBonline website which at present allows the consultation by TIR Customs focal points of TIR Carnet holders' contact information, with a view to speed-up and facilitate the updating of the data on TIR Carnet holder contained in the International TIR Database (ITDB).

B. PURPOSE

2. This document has been prepared to capture a first overview of the scope, investment needed, dependencies on other projects, anticipated payback and feasibility so that the constituent parts of the Project can be prioritized, funded and authorized.

C. BACKGROUND

3. At its thirty sixth session, the TIR Administrative Committee “requested the secretariat to make a feasibility study of the possibilities to enable Customs authorities to update their “own” data online in ITDBonline.” (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/73 para. 14).

D. OBJECTIVES:

4. The ITDBonline+ project aims at expanding the functionalities of the ITDBonline web site by creating a platform allowing authorized users (Associations and Customs) to update online their data in the ITDB. By this means, the ITDB will be constantly up-to-date.

E. SCOPE, EXCLUSIONS AND INTERFACES

5. The ITDBonline website currently allows the TIR Customs Focal points to have access online to TIR Carnet users contact information. The information contained in the ITDB is currently transmitted to the secretariat by various means, including the use of the ITDB2001 program developed and distributed by the TIR secretariat as well as many other formats. The transformation of the data into a standard format is, at present, a considerable workload and not fully efficient.

6. The scope of the ITDBonline+ project is to provide similar functionalities as the ITDB2001 program but making use of the Internet to facilitate and speed-up the exchange of information.

7. Having the ITDB permanently up-to-date is of the highest importance for the eTIR project, particularly in the light of the first steps identified by the WP.30 in its mandate to the Informal ad hoc Expert Group on the Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR procedure, i.e. Interfaces with the eTIR project are not in the scope of this project.

8. The ITDBonline+ website will have to be compatible, data wise, with the ITDB2001 program.

F. OUTLINE DELIVERABLES (PRODUCTS)

9. The ITDBonline+ will be a secured website application providing all functionalities allowing Associations and Customs offices to update their data in the ITDB.

G. CONSTRAINTS

10. Before starting the ITDBonline+ project, the ITDBonline already developed must be online and in use.

11. One of the major benefits of this project being its potential use by other projects such as eTIR, this project shall be finalized and in full use as quickly as possible and certainly before the first step of the eTIR project is launched.

12. Staff resources are limited to the TIR secretariat. Financial resources for consultancy could be taken from the TIRExB consultancy budget.

H. ASSUMPTIONS

13. Associations and Customs authorities are anticipated to use the ITDBonline+, once in place, to update their data in the ITDB.

I. OUTLINE BUSINESS BENEFITS/BUSINESS CASE

14. The ITDBonline+ will allow all actors involved in the authorisation procedure to timely fulfil their obligations with regard to Annex 9 part II of the TIR Convention, 1975. It will also ensure that data concerning TIR Carnet holders are continuously up-to-date, thus enabling holders to efficiently make use of the TIR procedure. The goal is to have an international database of all TIR Carnet holders that can be used as a reference at any moment to query the status and/or contact information of any TIR Carnet holder.

J. PRELIMINARY RISK ASSESSMENT

15. The development of this extension of the actual ITDBonline does not represent a risk in itself. Nevertheless, once developed two major risks have to be taken care of from the beginning. Firstly, there is a risk that Associations and Customs authorities will not use the ITDBonline+ resulting in the investment being wasted as well as resulting in inefficient control procedures for

customs authorities. Secondly, there is also a risk that unauthorized users might use the ITDBonline+ and that would endanger the complete Authorization procedure (see point K).

K. CUSTOMER'S QUALITY EXPECTATIONS

16. The ITDBonline+ shall be a user friendly website highly secured. The security should take account of 3 major aspects: avoid not authorized persons to get access to the data, avoid unauthorized updating of the data and finally avoid that the service could be stopped by the means of "deny of service" attacks. The updating should be allowed for single records as well as for larger subsets of data by the means of external XML files, for example.

L. ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

17. The TIR Administrative Committee will review the functionality and user-friendliness of the application on the basis of a first version of the website. It may also wish to undertake a security audit to ensure that the security is at the highest feasible level for all aspects identified in the quality expectations chapter.

M. OUTLINE PROJECT PLAN

18. In order to allow the Administrative Committee to make a first review the ITDBonline+ at its January session, the secretariat plans to undertake the detailed analysis from mid-October to mid-November and develop the website between mid-November and mid-January. Once reviewed the website will be enhanced in line with AC.2 comments and audited for security in the course of March 2005. The website could then be launched after a final validation either by WP.30/AC.2 or WP.30.

N. REVIEW AND REPORTING

19. The secretariat will report on the progress of the development and usage of the ITDBonline+ at each Administrative Committee meeting.

O. FINANCIAL/BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

20. Approximately US\$ 10'000 for consultant staff specialized in ASP development will be required to enhance the functionalities of the ITDBonline. Approximately 5'000 to US\$ 10'000 might also be necessary to perform an independent security audit.

21. The day-to-day management of the web sit will be performed by the actual staff of the TIR secretariat and will therefore not require additional funds. The infrastructure (hardware, database management system, network, broadband internet access) is and will be provided by UNECE and UNOG.

P. TIMING

22. The detailed analysis should start as soon as the WP.30/AC.2 has accepted the project.

Q. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

23. The technology to be used for the ITDBonline+ will be the same as for the ITDBonline and the complexity of the overall web site will not be drastically increased. The development of the enhancements to the ITDBonline will be done by consultants whereas the day-to-day management of the website will be taken care of by the TIR secretariat. By supervising the development of the ITDBonline and by managing it on a daily basis, the TIR secretariat has gained expertise in the management of extranet projects.
