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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on the Conceptual and
Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure
(26 and 27 May 2005)

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

(26 and 27 May 2005)

A. ATTENDANCE

1. The Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (further referred to as: “the Expert Group”) held its seventh session on 26 and 27 May 2005 in Geneva.

2. The session was attended by Customs representatives from Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Jordan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey and the European Community (EC) as well as by representatives from the national associations of Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom. Experts from the International Road Transport Union (IRU) were also present. The full list of participants is presented in Annex 1.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2005/1.

3. The Expert Group adopted the provisional agenda, prepared by the secretariat (ExG/COMP/2005/1). It took note of the list of unsolved issues and open decisions presented in Annexes 1 and 2 of the provisional agenda.

C. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

4. The Expert Group thanked the Serbia and Montenegro Customs Authorities for proposing Mr. P. Arsic for the chairmanship of the Group. In view of the fact that it was the first time that Mr. Arsic was participating in the Expert Group, the Group felt that it would be more appropriate to let the secretariat act as moderator during the session in order to have time to get acquainted with Mr. Arsic, and to revert to the election procedure at the end of the session. At that time, the Expert Group decided that it was not useful to elect a Chairman and that it would revert to the election of a Chairman at the beginning of its next session.

D. ACTIVITIES OF THE INFORMAL AD HOC EXPERT GROUP

(a) Results of the eTIR questionnaire

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2005/2; ExG/COMP/2005/3; ExG/COMP/2005/3/Corr.1; ExG/COMP/2005/4; Informal document 2 (2005); Informal document 2 (2005) Corr.1.

5. At its sixth session, the Expert Group welcomed a proposal from the secretariat to undertake a survey to gather information from Customs administrations on existing systems and on their needs and constraints regarding the eTIR system.

6. The Expert Group took note of the preliminary results of the survey as contained in ExG/COMP/2005/3 and Informal document 2 (2004) based on answers received until 4.5.2005 and 24.5.2005 respectively. At the time of the meeting, the following countries had replied to the eTIR questionnaire: Belgium (BEL), Bulgaria (BGR), Croatia (HRV), Cyprus (CYP), Czech Republic (CZE), Denmark (DNK), Estonia (EST), Finland (FIN), France (FRA), Germany (DEU), Greece (GRC), Hungary (HUN), Ireland (IRL), Italy (ITA), Jordan (JOR), Kuwait (KWT), Latvia (LVA), Lithuania (LTU), Luxembourg (LUX), Malta (MLT), Netherlands (NLD), Norway (NOR), Poland (POL), Serbia and Montenegro (SCG), Slovakia (SVK), Slovenia (SVN), Spain (ESP), Sweden (SWE), Switzerland (CHE), Syrian Arab Republic (SYR), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MKD), Turkey (TUR), United Kingdom (GBR).

7. The Expert Group discussed at length the questionnaire and the nature of its preliminary results. It expressed its reservation with regard to the results of the questionnaire in the light of the geographical distributions of the respondent countries. The Group was of the view that the results of the questionnaire would be more representative if more countries from outside the European Community would reply and requested the secretariat to continue to seek the replies of those countries which had not yet replied to the questionnaire. It also requested the secretariat to countercheck any conclusions drawn from the preliminary results when more countries would have replied.

8. The IRU was of the view that the questionnaire, due to its conception and scope, would not provide the necessary guidance which the Expert Group had aimed at and would lead to incomplete or inaccurate results whereas other participants indicated their satisfaction with the questionnaire.

(b) Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2003/1, version 1.4a.

9. The Expert Group was informed about the latest version (1.4a) of the Reference Model, dating from 26 November 2004. The secretariat will distribute an updated Reference Model after the session.

(0) Introduction

(0.2) Introduction to the Reference Model

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2005/5.

Decision: 99^{*/}

10. The Expert Group considered issue 60 raised by the IRU in document ExG/COMP/2005/5. After some discussion, it decided not to amend figure 0.1 as proposed but to add a reference to the ideas raised in the amended figure.

^{*/} The open issues and those solved in the course of the session as well as the decisions related to these issues or taken by the Expert Group during the session are contained in Annex 2 (issues) and Annex 3 (decisions) to this report.

(1) **Business Domain Modeling**

(1.1) **Vision**

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2003/1, version 1.4a., ExG/COMP/2005/3; ExG/COMP/2005/3/Corr.1; Informal document 2 (2005); Informal document 2 (2005) Corr.1; Informal document 6 (2004).

Decisions: 101-103

11. The Expert Group, using the preliminary results of the eTIR questionnaire, drafted Chapter 1.1.7 “Constraints” and Chapter 1.1.8 “Stakeholders’ needs”. It also noted that the preliminary nature of the results of the questionnaire might bring the group to revert to these chapters if additional replies by countries would result in changes to the conclusions drawn from the relevant questions of the questionnaire. The Expert Group decided to include both chapters in the Reference Model with the required footnotes summarizing the discussion held during the session.

12. The Expert Group decided to present the Business Domain Modeling Chapter to WP.30 for validation.

Annexes

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2005/5; ExG/COMP/2002/10.

Decisions: 96-98

13. The Expert Group accepted the proposals described in document ExG/COMP/2005/5 under point 2 and 3 (issues 61 and 62).

14. Having considered the proposal described in point 4 of document ExG/COMP/2005/5 (issue 63), the Expert Group welcomed the proposal from the UNTDED/ISO7372 Secretary to organize a working session between the secretariats of UNTDED/ISO7372, IRU and UNECE to align the Annex 4 of document ExG/COMP/2002/10 with the UNTDED. The Expert Group felt that this alignment was a prerequisite for a possible inclusion of the tables in the Reference Model.

(b) Future projects for the Reference Model of the TIR Procedure

Documentation: ExG/COMP/2004/23; ExG/COMP/2005/3; ExG/COMP/2005/4; ExG/COMP/2005/7; ExG/COMP/2005/8; Informal document 1 (2005).

Decision: 100

15. The Expert Group welcomed the secretariat's presentation explaining the over-arching principles of a possible fully computerized eTIR system which had led to the high level description laid down in document ExG/COMP/2004/23. The Expert Group was of the view that the document was describing a more complex system including more functionalities than originally requested by the Working Party.

16. The Expert Group welcomed the presentation made by the European Commission. It shared the ideas presented and requested the secretariat to collaborate with the Commission to prepare a new document for its next session combining the ideas from the Commission's presentation and elements of document ExG/COMP/2004/23.

17. Furthermore, the Czech Republic offered to provide the Expert Group at its next session with a document explaining how communication is handled nationally between Customs, national associations as well as the international organization and invited the IRU together with national associations to provide their views on the communication between them and Customs.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

18. The Expert Group was informed by the secretariat of other activities of WCO on transit data models. Version 2 of the Data Models is to be endorsed by the WCO council on 23-24 June. The WCO secretariat will then start to devise version 3 of the Data Models and plans to have them finalized and endorsed by June 2008. The secretariat will follow this work and participate in WCO meetings when necessary to ensure that TIR requirements will be taken on board in the transit model.

19. The European Community informed the Expert Group of its TIR/NCTS pilot project which will start on 1 July 2005. The project aims at replacing the physical transmission of vouchers 1 and 2, which is nowadays required within the EU to establish discharge of TIR operations, by an exchange of electronic messages based on the NCTS platform.

F. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

20. The Expert Group tentatively decided to hold its next session in Geneva on 10 and 11 or 14 and 15 November 2005 depending on the availability of Conference rooms (to be confirmed).

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

(ENGLISH ONLY)

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Mr. Raphael HIRT	Head TIR Carnet Management
Mr. Philippe WERRO	Head of TIR Business Process

UNECE SECRETARIAT

Mr. Poul HANSEN	TIR Secretary
Mr. Artur BOUTEN	Customs Expert
Mr. Konstantin GLUKHENKIY	Customs Expert
Mr. André SCEIA	Information Technology Expert
Mr. Imed BEN HAMIDA	Administrative Clerk

Annex 2 – Open and discussed issues

No	Subject	Description	Date	Source	Related decision(s)	Solved
4	0.2.1 Phases and workflow	ExG questions the usefulness of sequence diagrams as deliverables in the first stages of the work to complement or even replace the current activity diagrams.	1-2.Sep.03	ExG (Budapest)	4	
36	Annex 2 - TIR glossary	The secretariat proposes to amend Annex 2 with a number of terms. See document ExG/COMP/2004/9 for more details.	18.2.2004	Secretariat	91, 61	
41	Chapter 2	Following WP.30 decision regarding the step-by-step approach for the development of the project, ExG underlines the necessity to elaborate a detailed description of the final product in order to be able to split the work into various steps.	1-2 Mar. 04	ExG (Geneva)	78, 94, 100, 60	
47	1.1.7. Constraints	Listing constraints in Annex 1. See Informal document 6 (2004) Chapter F for more details.	14 Jun. 04	IRU	67, 82, 101	✓
48	1.1.7. Constraints	Introduction of further constraints. See Informal document 6 (2004) Chapter F for more details.	14 Jun. 04	IRU	68, 83, 102	✓
49	1.1.8. Stakeholders' needs	Introduction of stakeholders' needs. See Informal document 6 (2004) Chapter G for more details.	14 Jun. 04	IRU	69, 84, 103	✓
60	0.2.3 Structure and updating of the document	Proposal: replace Figure 0.1 with the one in document ExG/COMP/2005/5 point 1.	17 Jan. 05	IRU	99	✓
61	Annex 1	Update Requirement 28 as described in document ExG/COMP/2005/5 point 2.	17 Jan. 05	IRU	96	✓
62	Annex 2	"Update the term "Goods Manifest line item" as described in document ExG/COMP/2005/5 point 3."	17 Jan. 05	IRU	97	✓
63	Annexes	Add an Annex as described in document ExG/COMP/2005/5 point 4.	17 Jan. 05	IRU	98	

Annex 3 – Decisions

Decision No	Issue No	Description	Date	Source	Version ¹
96	61	ExG accepts the proposal.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	1.5
97	62	ExG accepts the proposal.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	1.5
98	63	ExG welcomed the offer of the UNTDED/ISO7372 secretary to organize a working session between the secretariats of UNTDED/ISO7372, IRU and UNECE to align the annex 4 to doc ExG/COMP/2002/10 with the UNTDED.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	
99	60	ExG decided to keep Figure 0.1 as such but decided to include a reference to the discussed issues.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	1.5
100	41	ExG requested the secretariat to work in collaboration with the European Commission to provide for its next session a document combining the ideas from the Commission's presentation and elements of document ExG/COMP/2004/23.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	
101	47	ExG decided to include chapter 1.1.7 drafted during the session into the Reference Model.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	1.5
102	48	ExG decided to include chapter 1.1.7 drafted during the session into the Reference Model.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	1.5
103	49	ExG decided to include chapter 1.1.8 drafted during the session into the Reference Model.	26-27 May 05	ExG (Geneva)	1.5

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¹ This column indicated in which version the results of the decision will be included for the first time.