



Brussels, 06 September 2022.

TIME RELEASE STUDY (TRS)

Potential Development of a new TRS Online System

(Item XIII. on the Agenda)

SUMMARY

Purpose of document

Based on the approval accorded by the 235th/236th Sessions of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC), the purpose of this document is to update the PTC on the progress of the development of the new TRS Online System.

Action required of the Permanent Technical Committee

The Permanent Technical Committee is invited to:

- take note of the progress updated on the development of new TRS Online System.

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I. Background

1. To support the implementation of the Time Release Study (TRS), in 2003 the WCO developed an internet based software application (known as the TRS Software). The TRS Software was developed to provide Members with a tool to create questionnaires that are used in conjunction with the study, and to record and analyse data relating to border release/clearance processes in order to produce reports including average times and standard deviations for each step or for the whole clearance process including the interventions of all actors involved.

2. The 231st/232nd PTC Sessions endorsed the proposal (Doc. PC0655Ea) to update the WCO TRS Software and further directed the Secretariat to facilitate intersessional work among interested Members. The intersessional work carried out by the interested Members was reported to the 233rd/234th Sessions of the PTC with a request to grant a time extension for more intersessional work. The 233rd/234th PTC also supported the suggestion to develop a new TRS Online System instead of updating the existing one.
3. After the 233rd/234th PTC sessions, more detailed intersessional work was further carried out in consultation with the interested WCO Members, accredited TRS Technical and Operational Advisers (TOAs) and the WCO Information Systems and Telecommunications Service (ISTS). Subsequently, the high-level outcomes of the intersessional work was presented to the 235th/236th PTC sessions for its final endorsement and approval. The 235th/236th PTC approved the initiation of the development of a new TRS Online System project based on the approach proposed and subject to funding availability.

II. The Approach

4. The 235th/236th Sessions of the PTC approved to initiate the development of a new TRS Online System project to be fully funded by the World Bank Group (WBG) in two main phases as presented below:

Phases	Main Activities	Estimated Cost	Time Period
Phase – I: Feasibility Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business analysis by the WCO - Finalize the scope and requirements specifications both from functional, non-functional and/or technical aspects. - Study and analyse the extent of its feasibility from practical and technical perspective. - Carry out detailed planning 	523,667 Euro (Total estimated average cost and out of which, Phase I might cost between 50,000 Euro to 75,000 Euro)	15 to 18 Months (Approx.)
Phase – II: Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start the development based on the finalized Phase I activities. - Consider an agile development approach 		

III. Status update

5. After the 235th/236th Sessions of the PTC, the WCO and the WBG held two rounds of preparatory meetings to plan the initiation of Phase I – Feasibility Study of the project. To date, following main tasks, among others, have been considered:
 - Draft and finalize the Terms of Reference for the project;
 - Explore the possibility to have some kind of cooperation agreement between the WCO and the WBG; and
 - Update and finalize all documentation and requirements for the new TRS Online System.

IV. Action required

6. The PTC is invited to:
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- take note of the progress updated on the development of new TRS Online System.
