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Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

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Agenda item 8 (b) (ii)

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF
GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS
(TIR CONVENTION, 1975)**

Revision of the Convention

Revised amendment proposals for the Convention

Transmitted by the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus

1. The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus, having considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/5, which was discussed at the session of the Working Party held from 31 January to 2 February 2007, informs the Working Party of the following.
2. As is generally known, two amounts are currently applied under the TIR system with respect to the maximum sum that may be claimed from guaranteeing associations per TIR carnet: US\$ 50,000 and EUR 60,000. The first amount is specified in the explanatory note to article 8, paragraph 3, of the TIR Convention, and is recommended to all Contracting Parties. The second amount has historically been applied in countries members of the European Union, despite the fact that, in the aforementioned explanatory note, customs authorities are recommended to limit the maximum guarantee amount to US\$ 50,000.

3. In the light of the divergences between the levels of the maximum guarantee amount in the countries members of the European Union and the remaining Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention, the State Customs Committee proposes that an amendment should be made to the explanatory note to article 8, paragraph 3, and the comment to article 23, which, in place of US\$ 50,000, would specify the sum of EUR 60,000. This would establish a single, higher, amount for the guarantee under the TIR Convention, which would promote the further harmonious development of the TIR system, contribute to more rapid circulation of goods in world trade, liberalize the conditions of application of article 23 of the TIR Convention with respect to the escorting of road vehicles at the carriers' expense and render these conditions more advantageous for carriers.

4. It must be noted that an increase in the level of the guarantee would reflect the overall development of international trade in that the cargoes carried are becoming ever more valuable, making it objectively necessary to raise the level of the maximum guarantee amount per TIR carnet.

5. In the light of the foregoing, the State Customs Committee suggests that this proposal should be included in the summary table of amendments to the TIR Convention (document ECE/TRANS/WP.30/2006/5) for subsequent discussion at the session of the Working Party.
