

By fax and by express courier

Name and address of the addressee of the Letter

AD/G4350/MMM

Geneva, 17 December 2002

URGENT – IMPORTANT !

TIR COVERAGE MAINTAINED ON RUSSIAN FEDERATION TERRITORY

HIGH LEVEL TALKS WITH THE STATE CUSTOMS COMMITTEE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION (SCC-RF) HAVE LED TO THE SIGNING OF A CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT. AS A RESULT, THE ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION OF TIR COVERAGE ON THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Dear Sir Dear, Madam

I have the satisfaction to announce that high-level talks with the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation (SCC-RF) earlier today, in the presence of Mr José Capel Ferrer, Director, Transport Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and representatives of other UN bodies, resulted in the signing of a co-operation agreement to resolve past problems and put in place the required measures to ensure the sustainable functioning of the TIR System in the future. As a result, insurance coverage has been maintained on the territory of the Russian Federation and the suspension of coverage of the TIR transit system announced by the IRU on 10 December 2002 has been cancelled.

The immediate objective of the agreement signed is to protect the TIR International Guarantee Chain from the consequences of customs irregularities. In addition, all parties have also agreed to work together in close partnership to obtain payment without delay of all sums due by the directly liable persons, as well as the sanction of fraudsters.

The IRU welcomes the SCC-RF's decision to resume and intensify the co-operation that has characterised relations between the two organisations, and salutes its evident determination to meet the challenge of putting in place effective, modern customs processes. With this decision, Russian and other international transport operators will be able to keep the arteries of Russian trade open, to the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Marmy
Secretary General

The same letter is addressed to all the TIR Associations and Customs Authorities of the Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention.