

**Regional TIR Seminar
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
(19-22 May 2015)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants and experts of the participating countries and of the international and national organizations, namely, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the USAID Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) Project office in Tajikistan, and the Association of International Automobile Carriers of the Republic of Tajikistan (ABBAT);

welcoming the organization of the Regional TIR Seminar by the TIR Executive Board and the UNECE TIR Secretariat, in close co-operation with the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;

expressing appreciation to the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) for hosting the event at its premises and for providing hospitality;

acknowledging that improvement of the conditions of transport, particularly international road transport of goods, is an essential factor for the development of cooperation among the countries in Central Asia and beyond and for their further economic development;

realizing that the simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities at border crossings, together with adequate control measures to protect the legitimate interests of the countries in the region, would contribute to transport and trade facilitation at large;

recognizing that an efficient customs transit system is of vital importance to the competitiveness of landlocked countries on the global market;

emphasizing that these elements are adequately addressed in the United Nations Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) and in the United Nations Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Harmonization Convention, 1982);

stressing the importance of Central Asia, which is a bridge between the European Union, Turkey, countries of the former Soviet Union and Asian countries, for the global application of the TIR system;

recognizing that the benefits of the TIR system can be considerably enhanced in a computerized environment;

noting with satisfaction that the TIR Seminar had provided a detailed technical and legal overview of current developments in the TIR system that had enabled in-depth discussions;

appreciating the substantive contributions of the International Road Transport Union and the Association of International Automobile Carriers of the Republic of Tajikistan (ABBAT), in providing a full picture of the practical implementation of the TIR Convention on the national and international levels;

recognizing the value added of the practical training exercises organized by the UNECE and the IRU as means of solidifying and expanding knowledge and practical understanding of the TIR Convention;

thanking the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for allowing and organizing a visit to DUSTI Border Crossing Point on the border with Uzbekistan, where it was possible to observe the carrying out of border crossing procedures, including the TIR Procedure;

1. Encourage countries in the region to faithfully implement the provisions of the TIR Convention with a view to ensuring an unimpeded application of the facilities offered by the TIR Convention, thus promoting international road transport and trade within the region and beyond.
2. Urge the competent authorities in the region, in order to strike a delicate balance between security and facilitation, to efficiently apply risk management tools and modern equipment as well as to mutually recognize Customs control measures taken in other TIR Contracting Parties, rather than performing frequent and costly inspections of cargo and vehicles.
3. Invite countries in the region to study and possibly implement examples of best practices, as contained in the TIR Handbook and in the UNECE-OSCE Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings.
4. Urge the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to expedite its current efforts towards the development of a single window concept, which will bring together 14 services into a single interface, as well as recommend the integration, into the single window, of the electronic TIR risk management tools (TIR-EPD and Real Time Safe-TIR). The implementation of TIR risk management tools would allow the IRU and international insurers to consider potential increase of the TIR guarantee limit for Tajikistan to EUR 60,000.
5. Recommend that, further to the findings made during the visit to the DUSTI Border Crossing Point, in particular regarding a limited pool of Tajik importers and the fact that the customs authorities are well informed about their risk profile, a dedicated fast lane could be considered to be set up for trustworthy companies. Such a dedicated lane can be also used by

transports for which advance information was submitted via TIR-EPD once it is integrated into the customs system.

6. Call upon the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to work further on reducing the average period of SafeTIR data transmission and on improving the quality of transmitted data in line with the TIR Convention, so that such data can be included into the surveys of the TIRExB.

7. Recommend that, taking into account the importance of regional TIR Seminars, efforts should be made in future to work more closely with the IRU and TIR national associations in order to ensure the participation of key representatives of the private and public sector at such events, which serve as an excellent platform for sharing experience and exchanging ideas related to international transport and trade facilitation.

8. Conclude that a well-functioning global intermodal TIR procedure could be envisaged in a fully computerized environment, and welcome the progress made in computerization, particularly the on-going pilot projects between Italy and Turkey and Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey, but also recognize the complexities that remain to be clarified from a legal and practical perspective.

9. Invite all Contracting Parties to nominate experts to participate in the newly established Group of Experts on the Legal Aspects of Computerizing the TIR procedure and highlight the importance of developing the appropriate legal framework for eTIR within the two year mandate of the Group.

10. Call upon all Contracting Parties to participate in WP.30 and AC.2 and to voice their views and carefully consider all aspects of the on-going discussions on the guarantee level, on the amendment proposals under consideration and on providing further facilitation measures under the TIR Convention such as authorized consignor and consignee.

11. Recommend that the Contracting Parties that are facing difficulties with the level of the current guarantee could consider the use of TIR+ as an interim solution for high-value consignments until AC.2 reaches a decision on the level of the guarantee.

12. Urge Contracting Parties to ensure the participation of their experts and customs officials in future TIR Seminars, and to facilitate the work of TIRExB and the TIR Secretariat in promoting the geographical expansion of the TIR Convention by participating in and, if possible, hosting national or regional TIR Seminars.

13. Propose that, in future, due provision is made for the financial support of key participants from countries facing financial restrictions, possibly on the basis of criteria to be determined by the TIR Governing bodies.