

**Regional TIR Seminar
Sarajevo
(29 and 30 March 2011)**

RECOMMENDATION

The participants and experts of the participating countries and international organizations, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lebanon, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and International Road Transport Union (IRU);

welcoming the organization of the Regional TIR Seminar by the TIR Executive Board and the UNECE TIR secretariat, in close co-operation with the Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina and with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme Office in Sarajevo (UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina);

acknowledging that improvement of the conditions of transport, particularly international road transport of goods, constitutes one of the factors essential for the development of cooperation among the countries of the region and for the economic development in particular;

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 and would help mitigate the consequences of the global economic crisis;

noting 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) which has already been accepted by 67 countries;

stressing the importance of the Balkan and South East European region, which is a crossroad between the European Union, Turkey and countries of the former Soviet Union, for the global application of the TIR system;

noting with satisfaction the start of the implementation of the TIR procedure in Bosnia and Herzegovina as of January 2010;

considering the importance of compliance with the technical requirements set out in the Convention for vehicles engaged in TIR transports and acknowledging that non-observance of these rules seriously undermine the well-functioning of the TIR system;

recognizing that the benefits of the TIR system can be considerably enhanced in a computerized environment and that many IT solutions have been already introduced both by the public and private sectors;

RECOMMEND that:

1. Countries in the region are encouraged to faithfully implement the provisions of the TIR Convention with a view to ensuring an unimpeded application of the facilities offered by the Convention, thus promoting international road transport and trade within the region and beyond;
2. Competent authorities and national issuing and guaranteeing associations from the region are invited to actively participate in all sessions of the competent bodies of the Convention and other meetings regarding the TIR Convention, including the activities conducted under the eTIR project;
3. Competent authorities and national associations are encouraged to maintain and, possibly, further strengthen the application of the provisions of Annex 9, Part II to the Convention, thus ensuring full control over TIR Carnet holders authorized to use the TIR system, not only when an application is lodged but also at regular intervals after authorization has been granted;
4. Competent authorities and authorized TIR Carnet Holders are requested to ensure that vehicles used in the TIR system conform to the technical prescriptions set out in Annexes 2 and 7 of the TIR Convention;
5. Competent authorities are urged to ensure the proper filling-in of TIR Carnets at Customs office of departure, en route and at Customs offices of destination,
6. Competent authorities and national associations are encouraged, if desired with the assistance of UNECE and IRU, provide extensive and regular training to Customs and trade on the correct filling-in and use of the TIR Carnet and to develop necessary tools to facilitate efficient control;
7. All major stakeholders, both public and private, are urged to collaborate, in a constructive spirit of partnership, with a view to speeding up the finalization of the eTIR project aiming at the full computerization of the TIR system.

Sarajevo, 30 March 2011