

Regional TIR Seminar  
Sofia (Bulgaria)  
(11 and 12 May 2006)  
RECOMMENDATION

The participants and experts of the participating countries and international organizations, namely,

welcoming the organization of the Regional TIR Seminar by the TIR Executive Board and the UNECE TIR secretariat together with the National Customs Agency of Bulgaria with the support of the Association of the Bulgarian Enterprises for International Road Transport and the Roads (AEBTRI) and appreciating in particular the hospitality extended to all participants at the Regional TIR Seminar by the host country,

stressing the importance of the TIR system for the countries of the Balkan and South East European region, in particular noting the substantial increase in the use of TIR Carnets over the last 20 years and the expected further increase in the future,

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,

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 despite increased control and security measures introduced by competent authorities, the international organization together with its member associations and individual transport operators, the fight against fraud needs to continue due to the constantly changing fraud mechanisms applied by international crime to abuse the TIR system;

RECOMMEND that:

1. Countries in the region are encouraged to faithfully implement the provisions of the TIR Convention, including the establishment of national guaranteeing associations, with a view to ensuring an uninterrupted 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 the relevant sessions of the competent bodies of the Convention and other relevant meetings regarding the TIR Convention;
3. Competent authorities and national associations 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 verify all records available and consider all alternatives offered by the TIR Convention and national legislation before taking a decision to exclude a TIR operator temporarily or permanently from the facilities offered by the TIR Convention in accordance with Article 38 of the Convention;

5. Competent authorities and authorized TIR Carnet Holders are urged to ensure that vehicles used in the TIR system conform to the technical prescriptions set out in Annexes 2 and 7 of the Convention;

6. Competent authorities ensure the proper filling-in of TIR Carnets at Customs office of departure, en route and at Customs offices of destination,

7. Competent authorities and national associations, if desired with the assistance of UNECE and the 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;

8. Competent authorities are invited to study the practice of middlemen at Customs border offices to assist transport operators with transit clearance procedures, with the aim to achieve that full Customs clearance can be offered without burdening trade with unnecessary and unsolicited additional costs;

9. Contracting Parties are invited to report detected fraud cases at an early stage to other parties concerned through the TIR Executive Board or the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport. The seminar welcomed the so-called Fraud Report Form (FRF), developed by the TIRExB with the aim to facilitate the exchange of fraud related information between Customs authorities, other governmental bodies and other concerned parties.