

**Regional TIR Seminar
Tunis
(3 and 4 June 2009)**

RECOMMENDATION

The participants and experts of the participating countries and international organizations, namely Egypt, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, 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 cooperation with the Customs Administration of Tunisia,

appreciating the hospitality extended to all participants at the Regional TIR Seminar by the Customs Directorate of Tunisia,

stressing that the 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 that the simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities to improve border crossing procedures for international road transport together with adequate control measures to protect the legitimate interests of the countries in the region would contribute to this improvement 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 United Nations member countries,

noting also that several countries in the region, i.e. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, have already acceded to the TIR Convention,

RECOMMEND that:

1. Countries in North Africa and nearby regions, that have not yet done so, are invited to study in detail the provisions of the TIR Convention with a view to acceding to the Convention and thus promoting international road transport and trade within the region and with the neighboring countries;
2. Countries, having acceded to the TIR Convention, but not yet having authorized a national association to act as guarantor and to issue TIR Carnets, are encouraged, in close cooperation with the IRU and with the support from the UNECE TIR secretariat, to

undertake efforts to establish a well-functioning TIR system in their country, thus considerably contributing to the development of the national and international transport industry and trade in their country, within their region and with all other countries participating in the TIR system;

3. Countries in the region may wish to explore the feasibility of organizing, as a follow-up to the Regional TIR Seminar, national TIR workshops in order to further acquaint all relevant Government authorities and the private sector with the provisions and benefits of the TIR Convention and the TIR system;

4. The UNECE TIR secretariat and the IRU are invited to assist the countries in the region in their efforts to study the provisions of the TIR Customs Transit Convention as well as of other relevant conventions of importance for the region and, if necessary, to assist in the implementation of these conventions.

Tunis, 4 June 2009