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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions

affecting Transport

(One-hundredth session, 12-15 February 2002,  
agenda item 7 (c) (vii))

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT  
OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION 1975)**

**Application of the Convention**

**Trade facilitation and Customs controls**

**Transmitted by the European Community (EC)**

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## **BACKGROUND**

1. The preamble to the TIR Convention explains that its aim is to facilitate the international carriage of goods by road vehicle by the simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities. However, the body of the TIR Convention provides little guidance on Customs controls, apart from a small number of provisions that permit or discourage specific controls. Detailed Customs controls are therefore a matter for national regulation. It would be useful to include in the TIR Convention a stronger “message” to Customs authorities that they should bear the aim of the TIR Convention in mind when formulating their national controls.

## **AMENDMENT PROPOSALS**

2. Accordingly, the European Community proposes the following new Article and Comment:

### New Article

“Any restrictions, controls or other provisions to be applied by the competent authorities to goods carried under the TIR procedure shall be limited to cases where they are justified by the circumstances or risk and shall be applied in such a way that they interfere as little as possible with the transport of goods under the TIR procedure.”

### New comment to this Article

*“Trade facilitation and Customs controls*

*The aim of the TIR Convention is to facilitate the international carriage of goods by road. Any restrictions, controls or provisions that are applied in addition to those specifically set out in the TIR Convention will usually lead to delays and extra costs for the transport of goods under the TIR procedure and therefore run counter to the aim of the TIR Convention. They should therefore be kept to a minimum.”*

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