



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/2005/11
7 December 2004

ENGLISH
Original : ENGLISH AND FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(Sixty-seventh session, 15-17 February 2005,
agenda item 4)

**ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE**

IRU Declaration on Fuel Crisis

adopted unanimously by the IRU General Assembly
in Geneva on 5 November 2004

IRU Members from close to 70 countries on the 5 continents unanimously declared on the occasion of the IRU General Assembly meeting of 5 November, in Geneva, out of great concern for the current fuel crisis:

- that the quality and security of road transport are essential priorities;
- that the trend of increasing fuel costs is likely to continue;
- that fuel price increases directly affect the road transport sector, where fuel represents an average of 20% of running costs whereas margins are very small (sometimes close to zero);
- that the industry cannot always pass on these fuel price increases entirely and immediately;
- that transport companies cannot, alone, be expected to manage the consequences of a global crisis.

Referring to the European Commission's White Paper on the European Transport policy for 2010, the IRU Members recommends that:

- The recent European Commission Proposal to harmonize taxes on professional fuel in Europe should be relaunched, but with the clear objective of reducing tax on such fuel to one standard rate, applicable in all 25 EU Member States. This standard rate must be clearly below the basic rate (EUR 350 per 1'000 litres) indicated in the Commission Proposal.

IRU and its Members recommend to Transport Operators that:

- when negotiating long term contracts with customers, the impact of fuel price increases should be duly taken into consideration. Ideally, the contract between the Transport Operator and the customer should include an adjustment system, based on a fuel price index.
-