Strengthening border crossing facilitation

Item 4 (k) of the provisional agenda

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov
Vice-Chair WP.30 and Chair AC.3
26 I 2 I 2020, Geneva
New accessions in 2019: Argentina and Oman. 76 contracting parties. Since 23 January 2020, the TIR system is now also active in Saudi Arabia, bringing the total number of TIR active countries to 63.

Amendment proposals:

- Finalization of the text of amendment proposals to the body of the Convention and new Annex 11, introducing eTIR;

- Formal adoption of the eTIR amendment package on 6 February 2020. Proposals will now be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation and final acceptance by contracting parties;

- Contracting parties (not interested in Annex 11) are urged NOT to raise an objection, but, rather to inform the Secretary-General that they do not (yet) accept Annex 11 by opting out.
Audit report of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the TIR Trustfund.

10 recommendations, mainly aimed at:

• **strengthening governance** of the authorized international organization, presently and for the future;

• **study the decline** in the sales of TIR Carnets and develop an action plan;

• develop **alternative financing arrangements** for the TIR Trust Fund;

• develop an **action plan to provide training and support** for recently acceded TIR countries.
11th (June 2019) and 12th (February 2020) sessions.

Biennial survey on Annex 8.
- 25 countries replied, but various incomplete answers, as well as no continuity in answers. Thus, survey constitutes only limited source of comparable data on progress.
- Future surveys: dedicated focal points and no longer anonymous.

Next survey in 2023, further to the adoption of amendment to Annex 8, Article 7 to extend the delay between two surveys from two to five years.
Finalized discussion on eTIR and transmitted proposals to AC.2.

Adopted comment to Article 1 (o) (with a reservation from the Russian Federation), allowing for the use of subcontractors (subsequently endorsed by AC.2).

Adopted new Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage and transmitted to ITC for adoption, with the abstention of the European Union Member States, on 19 February 2019; 1 signatory: Chad (26 September 2019).

Continued discussing issues in the 1954 Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Vehicles in Egypt and Jordan.
Requests from the Inland Transport Committee:

- Survey on the involvement of customs in enhancing national road safety (29 countries replied);

- Tentatively agreed to timetable and tasks to support the ITC strategy until 2030, subject to further assessment at any time in the future;

- First assessment of the 17 legal instruments under the auspices of WP.30 at February 2020 session and insertion of recurrent agenda item on the introduction of new technologies for various modes of transport.
ITC is requested to express its support for continuing the eTIR project by:

- **Supporting the prolongation** of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on the Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) for the year 2020 until its conversion into a formal Group of Experts;

- Urging contracting parties and relevant stakeholders to **secure funds** to make eTIR operational;

- Requesting the secretariat to **continue pilot applications** of the eTIR international system;

- **Approving the establishment** of the Group of Experts Expert Group on the Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) and endorse its Terms of Reference.
Ongoing issues in the implementation of the TIR Convention in the Republic of Belarus:

- Requirement to submit electronic advance data to customs through a unified platform on a paid basis;
- Non-residents of Belarus do not have direct access to the unified platform, but have to pass through customs brokers (at additional costs);
- According to WP.30, if not against the letter of Article 46 (no charge for normal customs attendance) then certainly against the spirit of the TIR Convention (risk of discrimination and against principles of free transit enshrined in the World Trade Organization);
- Findings transmitted to Belarus authorities but, so far, without any consequence;
- WP.30 requested Vice-Chair to bring this issue to the attention of ITC.
Thank you!