



TIR EXECUTIVE BOARD (TIRExB)

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COMMISSION DE CONTROLE TIR (TIRExB)

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ИСПОЛНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ СОВЕТ МДП (ИСМДП)

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Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)

Forty-ninth session

Geneva, 6 February 2012

Agenda item 12

**Letter by national association of The Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia**

Below, the secretariat reproduces, for consideration by the Board, a letter by the association of Macedonian Enterprises for Road International Transport (AMERIT), for consideration by the Board.



ASSOCIATION OF MACEDONIAN ENTERPRISES
FOR ROAD INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT **AMERIT**

SIZ "MAKEDONIJA SOBRKAJ" - SKOPJE



Our ref: 02 - 1325

Your ref: _____

Skopje, 18. 11. 2011

To:

1. European Commission
 - Commissioner, Mr. Siim Kallas
 - Head of Unit Land Transport Policy, Mr. Szabolcs Shmidt
 - Director General, Mr. Matthias Ruete
2. UNECE
 - Transport Division – WP.30
 - Director, Ms. Eva Molnar
 - TIR Secretary and Economic Affairs Officer, Mr. Konstantin Glukhenkiy
 - TIRExB
 - President, Ms. Eleni Metaxa
3. International Road Transport Union – IRU
 - President, Mr. Janusz Lacny
 - Secretary General, Mr. Martin Marmy
 - Head of TIR department, Mr. Marek Retelski
4. Office of the Prime Minister of Greece
 - Prime Minister, Mr. Lucas Papademos
5. Customs Administration of Greece
 - Director General of Customs and Excise, Mr. Nikolaos Vernadakis
6. World Customs Organization
 - Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, Mr. Michel Danet
7. World Trade Organization
 - Chairperson GATT and the Goods Council, H.E. Dr. Anthony Mothae Maruping
8. World Bank
 - Trade Department Director Mr. Bernard Hoekman

Subject: Protest Note on the recent strikes in Greece

Being aware of the current situation in our neighboring country Greece which is a result of the introduction of new austerity and other measures, there are massive social unrest and very frequent strikes and demonstration. We would like to emphasize our sincere understanding but also the disturbing consequences of this repeatable situation. Our economy suffers enormous financial losses from the frequent strikes at the three border crossing points with Greece and strikes at Thessaloniki port, our main import-export artery.

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The strikes of the Greek customs services is an enormous blow for the Macedonian economy and particularly to trade and road transport and also have negative impact on the international road transport community. The companies suffer losses of millions of delay in delivery of goods, exports of finished products or raw material imports. Customs transit systems are devised to facilitate the movement of goods, not to impede and disrupt the transport. Although the business community is seeking alternatives for a solution - given that blockade prevents access to the Thessaloniki port, there is no serious and feasible alternative.

By doing this, Greece impedes the free movement of people and goods, disrespecting TIR Convention, the legislation governing Common transit, the GATT Article V – Freedom of transit. In addition, Greece has an obligation under the UN-ALMATY Convention, to facilitate transport of the countries that have no direct access to ports. Greece is a member of the EU and by blocking the border with Republic of Macedonia, clearly violates international obligations and commitments towards EU membership, because it doesn't provide normal transport flow across its borders in case of strikes. In case of obstruction of an international corridor (Corridor 10 Athens-Salzburg) it is an international obligation to provide bridging the flow of goods. Also very important to mention is the Interim Accord between Republic of Macedonia and Greece signed in New York on September 13, 1995. Greece, through Article 14 of the Accord undertakes to respect international rules and regulations regarding the transit of goods

"...facilitate the transit of their goods between them and through their territories and ports. The parties shall observe international rules and regulations with respect to transit, telecommunications, signs and codes..."

By Article 8 point 1 of the Interim Accord signed between Greece and Republic of Macedonia, both countries are obliged to













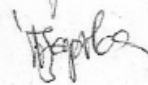

"...refrain from imposing any impediment to the movement of people or goods between their territories or through the territory of either Party to the territory of the other. Both Parties shall cooperate to facilitate such movements in accordance with international law and custom."

Moreover, by Article 19 of the same Interim Accord, Greece and Macedonia should strive to improve and accelerate customs and border formalities

"...consistent with the obligations of the Party of the First Part arising from its membership in the European Union and from relevant instruments of the Union, the Parties shall make joint efforts to improve and accelerate customs and border formalities..."

Not only Macedonian transport and economy but the economy in the Balkan region is suffering losses from the strikes in Greece, and **we strongly object for the interruption, congestion and blockages at the borders with Greece**. Allow us to ask for your attention on this important issue, since such violation of international regulations is done by Greece as an EU and UN member.

In witness where of the parties signed below, through their authorized representatives, signed this PROTEST NOTE which shall be sent to all respective institutions and governmental bodies.

Association of Macedonian Enterprises for Road International Transport AMERIT	Mr. Zlatko Kocovski Secretary General	 
Macedonian International Forwarders Association MIFA	Mr. Djino Skrijelj President	 
The Association of Independent Unions of Transporters of Republic of Macedonia MAKAMTRANS	Mrs. Biljana Muratovska Secretary General	 
Economic Chamber of Macedonia	Mr. Branko Azeski President	 
Macedonian Chambers of Commerce	Mr. Zlatko Kalenikov President	 
Economic Chamber of North-West Macedonia	Mr. Djemail Dauti President	 
Macedonian ITC Chamber of Commerce MASIT	Mr. Igor Bimiloski President	 
Macedonian-German Economic Association DMWV	Mr. Marian Malinov Secretary General	