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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

147th session

Geneva, 10-13 October 2017

Item 3 (c) (v) of the provisional agenda

Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975):

Application of the Convention

IRU external audit report and related matters

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its 146th session, the Working Party, in response to a proposal by the delegation of the Russian Federation, requested the secretariat to address a letter to the management of all national associations asking them (a) if they had been granted access to the external audit report of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and (b) what their views were on the external audit report. The secretariat was requested to report the findings to the Working Party at its next session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/292, para. 35).

2. Further to this request, the secretariat addressed a letter to the associations on 6 July 2017 (by regular mail and email), quoting the two aforementioned questions and asking for replies by 21 July 2017 (see Annex).

II. Replies

3. To date (27 July 2017), the secretariat received 38 replies.

4. The replies came from: Afghanistan, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI); Armenia, Association of International Road Carriers of Armenia (AIRCA); Austria, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Internationaler Strassenverkehrsunternehmen Österreich (AISÖ); Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan International Road Carriers Association (ABADA); Belarus (Association of International Road Carriers (BAMAP); Belgium (Fédération Royale Belge des Transporteurs et des Prestataires de Services Logique

(FEBETRA); Bosnia Herzegovina, Association of International Road Hauliers - Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AIRH); Bulgaria, Association of the Bulgarian Enterprises for International Road Transport and the Roads (AEBRTRI); Croatia, Croatian Road Transport Association (TRANSPORTKOMERC); Czech Republic, Association of Road Enterprises & Passenger Transport (CESMAD BOHEMIA); Denmark, Danish Transport and Logistics Association (DTL); Finland, Suomen Kuljetus ja Logistiikka (SKAL); France, Association Française du Transport Routier International (AFTRI); Georgia, Georgian International Road Carriers Association (GIRCA); Germany, Bundesverband Güterkraftverkehr Logistik und Entsorgung e.V. (BGL); Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA); Italy, Unione Italiana delle Camere di Commercio, Industria, Artigianato e Agricoltura (UICCIAA); Jordan, The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ); Kazakhstan, Union of International Road Carriers of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KAZATO); Kyrgyzstan, Association of the International Road Transport Operators of the Kyrgyz Republic (AIRTO-KR); Latvia, Road Carriers Association (LATVIJAS AUTO); Lithuania, Lithuanian National Road Carriers Association (LINAVA); Morocco, Association Marocaine des Transports Routiers Internationaux (AMTRI); Netherlands, Transport en Logistiek Nederland (TLN); Norway, Norges Lastebileier-Forbund (NLF); Poland, Association of International Road Transport Carriers in Poland (ZMPD); Republic of Moldova, International Association of Road Hauliers of Moldova (AITA); Romania, Asociatia Româna Pentru Transporturi Rutiere Internationale (ARTRI), National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania (UNTRR); Russian Federation, Association of International Road Carriers (ASMAP); Serbia, Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Serbia (CCIS-AT); Spain, Asociación del Transporte Internacional por Carretera (ASTIC); the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, SIZ Makedonija Soobrakaj (AMERIT); Turkey, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB); Turkmenistan, Turkmen Association of International Road Carriers (THADA); Ukraine, Association of International Road Carriers of Ukraine (ASMAP-UA); Uzbekistan, Association of International Road Carriers of Uzbekistan (AIRCUZ).¹

5. Out of the replies, twenty-six associations replied (a) that they had been granted access to the external audit report of IRU and (b) that the report had not led to any comments from their side, one association specifying that the report is still under consideration by its highest body.

6. A further ten associations replied along the same lines, but in a more extensive manner, clarifying that they had been informed about the results of the external audit at the IRU General Assembly of November 2016 and expressing their appreciation for the quality of the audit report and the way how the IRU Presidency and Secretariat is keeping national associations up to date about any follow-up actions. One association replied that feedback had been provided to IRU and, furthermore, that it considered the issue as an internal matter between IRU and its member association. Another association replied that, although access to the external audit report had been granted, the complexity and lack of transparency in the structures of IRU had complicated any sound judgement of its content.

7. Two associations, namely AITA from the Republic of Moldova and ARTRI from Romania, complained about the fact that, on 28 June 2017, IRU had addressed a letter to all associations, informing them of the questions by WP.30 and providing information, alluding, in their view, how associations were expected to reply.

¹ Official names of the associations as provided by IRU.

III. Considerations by the Working Party

8. The Working Party is invited to take note of the aggregate outcome of the survey among national associations and provide guidance to the secretariat how it further wishes to pursue the matter.

Annex

[English only]



Ref: UNECE/2017/TRANS/113WN/AB

6 July 2017

Dear Madam, dear Sir

I address myself to you at the specific request of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30).

At its 146th session (13-16 June 2017), the Working Party, inter alia, discussed the External Audit Report of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) – Review of governance and compliance areas and fact finding investigation – by Ernst & Young of 3 November 2016.

In response to a proposal made during the discussions, the Working Party requested the secretariat to address a letter to the management of all national associations asking them (a) if they had been granted access to the external audit report of IRU; and (b) what their views were on the external audit report.

The secretariat was requested to report the findings to the Working Party at its October 2017 session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/292, paras. 31-35)¹. In line with this request by WP.30, you are kindly invited to send your replies to the above questions to the UNECE secretariat, not later than by 21 July 2017, preferably by email (WP.30@unece.org).

Yours sincerely,

Walter Nissler
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Sustainable Transport Division

Name
Address

¹ Available at the UNECE website at:
<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/wp30/documents/2017/ECE-TRANS-WP30-292e.pdf>