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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

One-hundred-and-fifteenth session
Geneva, 30 January – 2 February 2007
Item 9 (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

Other matters

Submitted by the Union of Road Transport Associations in the
Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region (BSEC-URTA)

RES/GA10/TIR/06

Antalya, 24 November 2006

BSEC-URTA RESOLUTION * on the TIR System

The General Assembly:

Acknowledging that the globalization of trade and services creates new trade opportunities and transport challenges for the BSEC Member States, which stretch from Adriatic Sea along the Black and Caspian Seas to the Pacific Ocean with a very dynamic regional economic growth;

Welcoming that the BSEC cooperation in the field of transport is developing and deepening, gradually in reply to the new needs and in view of the road transport facilitation as a key for successful economic cooperation and increasing the prosperity of BSEC peoples;

Also welcoming that the BSEC Memorandum of Understanding on Facilitating Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC Region has entered into force of 20 July 2006 and the BSEC Transport Ministers called for its implementation as soon as possible in their Sochi Declaration adopted on 29 September 2006, which constitute two very important concrete developments, recently;

Noting, in this context, that the international road transport industry, particularly in the BSEC region, heavily relies on functioning of the current TIR system as one of the most successful facilitation instruments ever that is spread to 56 countries in the world including all twelve BSEC Member States and their major trade partners;

Highlighting that the BSEC-URTA Member Associations already assume important responsibilities in actual implementation of the TIR system as TIR Guaranteeing Associations at national level and they issue around 65 % of all TIR carnets used annually by all TIR Contracting Parties, thus re-confirming that the BSEC region is one of the major users and beneficiaries of this global facilitation tool.

Being concerned, however, that there are certain difficulties observed within the framework of the UN TIR related organs, which seem to stem from and may even lead to further erosion of the public-private partnership (PPP) at multilateral level, which is a must for a sustainable TIR System worldwide;

Being also concerned that the current TIR System with its well-established successful structure and PPP spirit derived from the TIR Convention, is subjected to differing interpretations of the Contracting Parties with respect to its further computerization and development;

1. **Highlights** that the development of economic cooperation in the BSEC region depends on existence, continuity and implementation of all transport related UN conventions and multilateral agreements,
2. **Underlines whereof**, that the TIR System is particularly important for the BSEC international road transport industry as one of the most successful and wide spread road transport and transit facilitation instrument all over the world covering the whole BSEC region,
3. **Appeals, therefore, to** all TIR Contracting Parties, including all the BSEC Member States to take into consideration the concerns of the BSEC international road transport industry about sustainability of the current TIR System and **requests them kindly** to maintain the TIR System without leaving any uncertainty on its continuity and by preservation of its basic principles and fundamental characters that are well stipulated in the TIR Convention,
4. **Expresses its strong hope** that the PPP at the UN level will be reinforced, efficiently, with positive dialogue and mutually constructive approach of all sides so that this important world facilitation instrument is not jeopardized but continues to serve as a very successful alternative in service of the BSEC and world foreign trade and peoples as a whole,
5. **Mandates** the BSEC-URTA President to inform about its concerns herein, appropriately to all the TIR Contracting Parties as well as the BSEC Organization.

* Adopted in Antalya on 24th November 2006, by the Tenth Meeting of the BSEC-URTA General Assembly unanimously