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Statement

by

**Mr. Michael Møller
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Acting Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

at

**the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention
Thursday, 12 June 2014**

Geneva, Switzerland

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this high-level strategic segment of the TIR Administrative Committee. The issues at stake today are well-known to all of you and I appreciate your commitment to ensuring the full implementation of the TIR Convention and to its continuous improvement.

Together, we have a responsibility to uphold the rule of law at the international level, and I trust that this responsibility will be at the heart of your efforts to find solutions that will lead to the full and unconditional reinstatement of the TIR system on the territory of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the Convention.

One of our important shared tasks is providing the incentives and institutions to facilitate the development, transfer and deployment of technology. Today's meeting is also an important opportunity to enhance our cooperation for the use of Information Communication Technologies, and to the goal of realizing the full potential of the computerization of the TIR procedures.

Implementing the eTIR would be an important step in this direction, supported by an appropriate legal framework, administrative structures and the necessary funds for a smooth and efficient transition to an electronic environment. An easy, efficient and secure electronic TIR procedure will benefit operators, traders, businesses, customs authorities and Governments, and will be a public good to the benefit of all.

Since its inception, the TIR Convention has provided Governments and the transport industry with a simple and efficient system to transport goods across borders in Europe, Asia and beyond. By facilitating trade and transport, the TIR Convention has contributed to the broader development mandate of the United Nations, making a positive difference to the daily lives of people across many regions.

Your meeting today is a critical opportunity to ensure that the Convention can continue to contribute to a better future for people across the UNECE and beyond. I hope that you seize this opportunity for a real breakthrough for the people we serve.

I wish you successful discussions and thank you for your attention.