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**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE TIR CONVENTION, 1975**

**TIR Executive Board (TIRExB)**

(Twentieth session, 19 and 20 November 2003,  
agenda item 8 (a))

**MONITORING OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE TIR GUARANTEE SYSTEM**

**Customs claim statistics**

**Transmitted by the Republic of Belarus**

Note: Following a request by the TIRExB at its seventeenth session, the competent authorities of the Republic of Belarus have transmitted to the TIR secretariat a letter, dated 24 July 2003, containing recent data on Customs claims. A summary of this letter is reproduced below.

1. General Customs claim statistics for Belarus is given in the following table:

Year	Lodged claims		Paid claims	
	Number	Amount (US\$)	Number	Amount (US\$)
2001	58 (9 TIR Carnets were taken into charge in 2000, and 49 in 2001)	662,841	55	650,036
2002	468 (358 TIR Carnets were taken into charge in 2001, and 110 in 2002)	18,407,987	8	119,289
January-May 2003	53 (all TIR Carnets were taken into charge in 2002)	5,857,062	1	239

2. The Byelorussian Customs authorities have collected sufficient evidences for TIR infringements committed in 2001-2002 and have fulfilled all the requirements of the TIR Convention regarding the submission of claims to the international guarantee chain. However, as the above figures demonstrate, a major part of Customs debts has not been paid.
  3. This situation is undermining the sustainability of the TIR system on a global scale, as one of its pillars, namely the guarantee system, is blocked. The Byelorussian Customs believes that the problem is caused by an excessive centralization of the guarantee system where the national guaranteeing association is not in a position to take independent decisions regarding the payment of Customs claims, including those related to domestic transport operators.
  4. As practice shows, even in cases where the international TIR guarantee chain agrees to meet Customs claims, it takes longer than one year to effect payment, instead of the three months provided for in the TIR Convention.
  5. Moreover, in 2001-2002 almost all payments were effected by the TIR guarantee chain on the basis of court decisions.
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