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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975
(Thirtieth session, 22 and 23 February 2001,
agenda item 4 (a) (iii))

ACTIVITIES OF THE TIREXB

Regional TIR Seminar for countries in Western Asia

Note by the TIR Secretary

1. In accordance with its mandate the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat have organized a Regional TIR Seminar that was held at Amman (Jordan) on 31 October and 1 November 2000. The Seminar was organized in close co-operation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (UN/ESCWA) and the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance of Jordan. It was attended by nearly 100 experts and Government officials from 14 countries in the UN/ESCWA region as well as from regional and international organizations, including the International Road Transport Union (IRU).
2. In the UN/ESCWA region, covering the countries of Western Asia and the Middle East, Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and Kuwait have already ratified the TIR Convention and are utilizing the TIR regime. Some other countries in the region are already undertaking the necessary steps to ratify the Convention or have shown interest in joining the system.
3. The Seminar was intended for senior Government officials responsible for Customs and trade policies as well as for Customs transit procedures. It was also open to representatives of the private sector involved in international road transport, freight forwarding and Customs procedures.

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4. The Seminar participants have been provided with detailed information on the functioning of the TIR Customs transit regime. Particular attention has been given to the roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved in the TIR regime (Governments, transport operators, national associations, insurance companies, the IRU), the TIR Administrative Committee and the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB).
5. At the end of the Seminar a recommendation was adopted by consensus which is contained below.
6. The Administrative Committee may wish to consider the results of the Seminar and may wish to provide guidance on possible further events of this nature.

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Regional TIR Seminar
Amman
(31 October and 1 November 2000)

RECOMMENDATION

The participants and experts of the participating countries and international organizations, namely Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, UNDP, UNCTAD, UN/ECE, UN/ESCWA, IRU and the Arab Union of Land Transport,

welcoming the organization of the Regional TIR Seminar by the TIR Executive Board and the United Nations TIR secretariat, in cooperation with UN/ECE, UN/ESCWA and the Ministry of Finance, Customs Department, Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and appreciating in particular the hospitality extended to all participants at the Regional TIR Seminar by the Ministry of Finance, Customs Department of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,

stressing that the improvement of the conditions of transport, particularly international road transport of goods, constitutes one of the factors essential for the development of cooperation among the countries of the region and for the economic development in particular,

considering that the simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities to improve border crossing procedures for international road transport together with adequate control measures to protect the legitimate interests of the countries in the region would contribute to this improvement,

noting that these elements are adequately addressed in the United Nations Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) which has already been accepted by 63 United Nations member countries,

noting also that several countries in the region, i.e. Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and Kuwait have already acceded to the TIR Convention,

RECOMMEND that:

1. Countries in the region, that have not yet done so, are invited to study in detail the provisions of the TIR Convention with a view to acceding to the Convention and thus promoting international road transport and trade within the region and with the countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe;
 2. Countries in the region may study the feasibility of organizing, as a follow-up to the Regional TIR Seminar, national TIR workshops in order to acquaint all relevant Government authorities and, if appropriate, the private sector with the provisions of the TIR Convention;
 3. Countries in the region, wishing to accede to the TIR Convention should inter alia
 - (a) deposit an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations as depositary of the Convention and
 - (b) if not existing, support the establishment of national guaranteeing and TIR Carnet issuing associations which should be affiliated or become a member of the International Road Transport Union (IRU).
 4. The TIR secretariat of the United Nations, UN/ESCWA and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) assist the countries in the region in their efforts to study the provisions of the TIR Customs Transit Convention as well as of other relevant conventions of importance for the region, taking account of the Arab Transit Agreement and, if necessary, to assist in the implementation of these Conventions.
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