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Item 4 (b) (v) of the provisional agenda

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

Revision of the Convention –

Amendment proposals to the Convention: Proposals transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation

Proposed amendments to the TIR Convention submitted by the Government of the Russian Federation

Transmitted by the International Road Transport Union

I. Introduction

1. On 4 June 2014, the Russian Federation published informal document 2014 (9) proposing various amendments to the TIR Convention. The present document will provide a short overview of the IRU's role in this revision process and some IRU observations on the constructive Russian proposals.

II. Role of the IRU

2. In relation to changes to the TIR Convention, it should be stressed that it is the sole prerogative of the Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention to propose or initiate any amendment (article 59 of the TIR Convention). In addition the IRU has no voting right.

3. The role of the IRU by virtue of article 6.2.bis of the TIR Convention is to ensure the proper functioning of the TIR guarantee system. Therefore, the IRU can only take note of, and comply with, any change to the TIR Convention decided by the Contracting Parties.

4. In this context, the IRU would like to provide the following expert opinion on the proposed amendment process.

III. IRU observations on the amendment proposals submitted by the Russian Federation

5. During the last session of the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention held on 12 June 2014 (AC.2), the IRU already "*welcomed and supported all proposals (from the Russian Federation) and urged their speedy consideration*".

6. The IRU wishes to reconfirm its general support for the initiative launched by the Russian Federation, aimed at revising the TIR Convention as it takes into account the current needs of both the customs authorities and the international road transport industry.

7. Obviously, the exact terminology of the changes proposed by the Russian Federation should be discussed in detail by the Contracting Parties during the WP.30 and ultimately the AC.2, but the IRU would like to highlight the following comments:

(a) Maximum guaranteed amount per TIR Carnet

The IRU supports the initiative of the Russian Federation to reopen the important question concerning the maximum guaranteed amount and is not opposed to the proposed change to Annex 9, Part I of the TIR Convention, which could be considered in parallel with Article 8, paragraph 3 of the TIR Convention. The IRU specifically mentioned during the last WP.30 session that it is ready to "*re-examine the issue of the guarantee level*".

(b) Regular examination of all documentation and accounts of the IRU

The IRU is not opposed to providing requested documentation, or to undergoing a specific audit related to the management of the TIR system that may be required by virtue of the TIR Convention, as results from its current version or would result from any amendment.

During the last WP.30 meeting, the IRU already supported the idea of including "*more transparency requirements in the convention*".

Moreover, following an informal meeting of some of the main stakeholders that took place during the WP.30 session in June 2014, it "*transpired that a compromise could be found on the wording*" of the so-called audit provisions and the Secretariat was invited to present a new document on the matter for the October 2014 session.

The IRU is in close contact with the UNECE and is optimistic that the text that will be provided to Contracting Parties in October 2014 will prove to be acceptable for all stakeholders in order to allow the amendment of Annex 9, Part III of the TIR Convention, so that the amendment to Annex 8 as proposed by the Russian Federation may no longer be necessary.

(c) Harmonization of the terminology of the TIR Convention

The IRU supports the proposals of the Russian Federation.

(d) Other matters

The IRU has always supported the calls from various TIR Contracting Parties to ensure appropriate representation of the major TIR Contracting Parties in the official bodies of the TIR Convention, in particular the TIR Executive Board.

This is a particularly important point, taking into account the role played by the Russian Federation within the TIR Convention, being currently the TIR

country issuing the second highest number of TIR Carnets and the TIR country where the highest number of TIR Carnets are terminated.

In this respect, the IRU supports the current activities of the informal group working on making possible adjustments to the composition of the TIRExB and the statement published on the occasion of the last AC.2 meeting in this respect.
