

Border Crossing Facilitation

Summary of activities 2018-2019

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov, Vice-Chair
Working Party on Customs Questions
affecting Transport (WP.30)



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Harmonization Convention, 1982

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- International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of goods, 1982.
- Fifty-eight contracting parties, no changes in 2018.
- Biennial survey on the implementation of Annex 8 or road border crossing under way.
- Results as well as amendment proposals for the Convention will be discussed at the 11th session of the Administrative Committee for the Harmonization Convention (AC.3) on 13 June 2019.

TIR Convention, 1975

Status and amendments

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- New accessions in 2018: Qatar, Saudi-Arabia, Argentina, Oman
- 76 contracting parties, 62 TIR operational countries
- **Amendment 34** (1 July 2018):
 - Increase maximum guarantee amount from 50,000\$ to 100,000 euros;
 - Provide AC.2 with the possibility to request additional information, clarifications or documents in relation to the annual audited financial statements and audit reports by the authorized international organization and, ultimately, to engage an independent external auditor;
 - Require the authorized international organization to engage an independent external auditor to conduct annual audits of the records and accounts pertaining to the authorizations to organize the functioning of the international guarantee system and the printing and distribution of TIR Carnets.

TIR Convention, 1975

Status and amendments, continued

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- **Amendment 35** (3 February 2019):
 - Replace “customs” in Article 1 (q) by “customs authorities or other competent authorities”;
 - Replace “approved” in Articles 3 (b), and 6, para. 2 by “authorized”;
 - Shorten, in Article 11, para. 3 the delay between the notification by customs of non-discharge of a TIR operation to the national association and the request for payment from 3 months to 1 month;
 - Include a reference to “repeated offences” in Article 38, para. 1 (dealing with the temporary or permanent exclusion of TIR Carnet holders from the TIR system) and add a phrase stipulating that the criteria for exclusion are set by national law.
 - Proposal to amend Article 2, clarifying that the term “frontier” should be read and understood as “customs frontier” not accepted, further to an objection by Kazakhstan.

TIR Convention, 1975

International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)

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- International TIR Data Bank contains data of around 34,000 authorized TIR Carnet holders (**February 2019**);
- **May 2018**, a new module with a repository of customs offices was launched. Access restricted to customs only, until discrepancies between various data sources has been resolved;
- **October 2018**: AC.2 decides to grant IRU access to the ITDB to compare and improve the quality of data;
- **October 2018**: TIRExB transmits proposals for the mandatory submission of data to the ITDB by electronic means (no more paper submission); under discussion by AC.2.

TIR Convention, 1975

Developments in the implementation of the TIR Convention

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- **8 November 2017:** IRU Presidential Executive decided to exclude Asociația Română Pentru Transporturi Rutiere Internaționale (ARTRI) from Romania from IRU membership.
- **4 May 2018:** IRU General Assembly upheld this decision and, as a consequence, ARTRI was excluded from IRU membership and its contractual affiliations terminated.
- **8 January 2018:** Romanian customs authorize the National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania (UNTRR) to act as TIR guaranteeing association for Romania, thus ensuring the uninterrupted coverage of the TIR guarantee in Romania and, more importantly, in the territory of the European Union.
- At the request of Romanian customs, TIRExB is investigating whether any public law intervention in the private law relations between IRU and its national guaranteeing associations is possible to prevent such situation from reoccurring in the future.

TIR Convention, 1975

eTIR

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eTIR Pilot Projects:

- Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine ready to take part in an intermodal TIR Pilot Project between them;
- Willingness of Azerbaijan, India and Iran (Islamic Republic of) to work on an eTIR Pilot Project along the International North South Transport Corridor;
- Continuation of eTIR transports between Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey with more transport companies and more customs office;
- Successful implementation of the eTIR Pilot Project between Georgia and Turkey.

Annex 11

- Discussions in WP.30 finalized in February 2019; text transmitted to AC.2;
- Strong support from major TIR countries (EU, Turkey, Ukraine), with reservations from the Russian Federation;
- [13 June 2019, extraordinary session of AC.2 to adopt the text of Annex 11.](#)

International Convention on the facilitation of border crossing procedures for passengers, luggage and load-luggage carried in international traffic by rail

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- **February 2019:** main stakeholders agreed on the last outstanding proposals;
- WP.30 took a vote and 4 countries (Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkey) voted in favour, with no objections. The remaining ECE member States either abstained from voting or were not present;
- ITC has before it document ECE/TRANS/2019/17 and its Corrigendum 1 for formal adoption;
- Upon adoption, the ECE secretariat will transmit the text to the Secretary General of the United Nations in his capacity as depositary and the convention will be open for signature at the United Nations headquarters.

Customs Conventions on the temporary importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956)

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- Status: **No changes in 2018**: 1954 Convention: 80 contracting parties; 1956 Convention: 26 contracting parties
- Alliance Internationale de Tourisme/Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT/FIA) reported on ongoing issues in the application of the 1954 Convention in Egypt and Jordan, in particular because customs authorities did not seem to respect the deadlines and procedures laid down in the Convention.
- After various requests, as of **summer 2017**, from ECE to provide feedback, Egyptian customs only replied in **summer 2018**. Automobile and Touring Club of Egypt (ATCE) is challenging the replies. At the request of the AIT/FIA Customs Council, the Executive Secretary sent, once more, request to Jordan authorities, seeking a response.
- ITC/WP.30 cannot intervene in individual claim cases, but can only urge all parties to respect the provisions of the Convention, in order to ensure that the CPD system can continue to exist for Egypt and Jordan.

Thank you!

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov
Vice-Chair WP.30

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