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Economic Commission for Europe

Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 12–13 October 2016

Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda

Other business:

Vehicles with loose floorboards

Vehicles with loose floorboards

Note by the secretariat

1. At its sixty–eighth session (June 2016), the TIR Executive Board took note of an incident with a vehicle with loose floorboards (see Annex).
2. The Board recalled that, in 2008–2009, it had requested an expert opinion if a specific type of vehicle, whose floors are equipped with troughs to facilitate and secure the transport of sheet metal coils, meets the requirements of the TIR Convention, in particular the provisions of Annex 2, Article 1 (c) and (d). The consulted expert had been of the opinion that such vehicle could be approved for the transport of sheet metal coils. However, when transporting other goods, the V-shaped trough could hold goods and could, even be considered as a ‘concealed space’. Thus, the dual use of the concerned vehicle, prevented it from being customs secure and, therefore, could not be approved for transport under TIR.
3. The Board, at its forty–second session (February 2010), agreed with the conclusion of the expert that the vehicle concerned could only have obtained TIR approval in accordance with the provisions of Annex 2, Article 1 (c) and (d), in case it had been designed for the exclusive transport of sheet metal coils. However, because the vehicle could alternatively be used for the transport of other goods (or a combination of coils and other goods), such approval should not have been granted because the V-shaped troughs, designed to secure the coils, could, when covered with floorboard to create a level loading floor, easily hold and, thus, hide goods. In addition, the troughs could only be properly inspected from all sides after the vehicle (or part thereof) had been emptied (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2010/9, para. 18).
4. The incident now reported exactly referred to an infringement where drugs were found in the concealed spaces of the through.
5. Although there was no information that, in this particular case, the vehicle had been approved for TIR transport, TIRExB was of the opinion that it was important to bring the matter to the attention of Contracting Parties and requested the secretariat to submit the incident to AC.2 for its consideration.

Annex



Trailer with loose floorboards

104 kg amphetamine and 3 kg cocaine, with a street value of 9 million euros

February 2016
