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UNITED NATIONS
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FOR EUROPE

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To all that representatives of competent authorities of all Contracting Parties utilizing the TIR system, representatives of all national TIR issuing and guaranteeing associations, the IRU as well as other concerned Customs authorities and industry groups.

Message: UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

TIR Contact Group
Athens, 22 and 23 April 2002

CONVOCATION

The Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30), at its one-hundredth session (12-15 February 2002), decided to convene a session of the TIR Contact Group to discuss, in particular, all aspects related to the application of the revised provisions of the TIR Convention which will come into force on 12 May 2002 as Phase II of the TIR revision process.

At the invitation of the Government of Greece, this seventh session of the TIR Contact Group will be held in Athens (Greece) on 22 and 23 April 2002.

In order to prepare for a seamless introduction of the revised provisions contained in Phase II of the TIR revision process, it is expected that representatives of competent authorities of all Contracting Parties utilizing the TIR system, representatives of all national TIR issuing and guaranteeing associations, the IRU as well as other concerned industry groups will participate in the session of the TIR Contact Group.

It is planned to consider, in particular, the following issues:

1. Application of the revised provisions of the TIR Convention adopted under Phase II of the TIR revision process, in particular:
 - (a) The new terms “TIR transport” and “TIR operation”
 - (b) The terms termination and discharge of a TIR operation
 - (c) Responsibilities of an international organization authorized to issue TIR Carnets
 - (d) Relationship between the international organization authorized to issue TIR Carnets and its members
 - (e) Procedures for notification of non-discharge and for submission of payment requests.
2. Application of the example Authorization and Agreement prepared by the TIR Executive Board (TIRExB).
3. Application of the Recommendations adopted by the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975 (20 October 1995 and 20 October 2000).
4. Other matters. Participants may wish to propose other issues for consideration. It would be appreciated if such proposals could be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible and no later than 1 April 2002.

Full simultaneous interpretation into and from English, French, Greek and Russian will be provided.

The draft programme of the session is contained in Annex 1 to this convocation. The detailed provisional agenda will be transmitted to all participants that have confirmed their participation (see below).

Participants are requested to inform the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible about their attendance by return of the attached participation form (Annex 2, return fax and e-mail is indicated on the participation form).

In case of difficulties in obtaining visa for Greece, delegates may address themselves to Mrs. Helen Metaxa-Mariatou, Directorate General of Customs and Excise; 19th Division Section B; Ministry of Finance; 10 Karageorgi Servias Street; GR- 101 84 Athens; Tel: +30 10-325 3721; Fax: +30 10-322 5731; e-mail: d19diadi@otenet.gr.

The meeting will take place at Hotel Athens Acropol, 1 Pireos Str, Omonia Square, GR-105 52 Athens. The Greek Customs authorities have negotiated a special rate for participants staying in this hotel and the neighbouring Omonia Grand Hotel. For room reservations at one of these two hotels, please use only the attached reservation form which shall be sent directly to the hotel (return fax and e-mail is indicated on the reservation form) no later than 22 March 2002 (Annex 3). If participants have difficulties in finding appropriate accommodation please contact the UNECE secretariat (Mr. Poul Hansen, see contacting details below), which might be able to assist. Information on the transfer from the Athens airport to one of the two venue hotels is contained in Annex 4.

For delegates arriving already on Saturday, 20 April 2002, making use of APEX air fares, the Greek Customs Authorities have organized a 1-day mini cruise to three islands in the Aegean Sea. For a detailed description of the cruise and the registration form please refer to Annex 5. The price of the cruise is 68,00 Euros including lunch. Delegates wishing to participate in this cruise are kindly requested to use only the attached reservation form which should be sent directly to the tour operator (return fax and e-mail is indicated on the reservation form) no later than 22 March 2002.

Should you have any questions concerning the forthcoming meeting of the TIR Contact Group please do not hesitate to contact the UNECE secretariat (Mr. Poul Hansen; Tel: +41 22 917 3258; Fax: +41 22 917 0614; e-mail: poul.hansen@unece.org).

Yours sincerely,

Martin Magold
Chief
Border Crossing Facilitation Section
Transport Division

Encl.: Annexes 1 to 5.