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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions
affecting Transport

(Ninety-fourth session, 21-25 February 2000,
agenda item 7 (c) (i))

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS
UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION, 1975)**

Application of the Convention

Status of resolution No.49: Replies to a questionnaire

Note by the secretariat

1. At its ninety-third session, the Working Party considered and approved a questionnaire prepared by the secretariat, for transmission to Contracting Parties having accepted resolution No. 49 : "Short-term measures to ensure the security and the efficient functioning of the TIR transit system", inquiring about its implementation (TRANS/WP.30/186, para. 45).
2. The replies received by the secretariat are summarized in the annex to this document and analysed below:

Introduction of accelerated discharge and search procedure for sensitive goods (column 2)

20 out of 29 countries surveyed (69 %) have introduced accelerated discharge and search procedures for the transport of sensitive goods. However, among the rest there are some countries (Norway, Poland, Slovakia) which seem to have a very fast basic discharge procedure (see column 3) and thus no need for an accelerated procedure for sensitive goods only.

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Number of working days required for the Customs office of destination to return voucher No.2 (column 3)

16 countries (55 %) are respecting the recommended deadline for the Customs office of destination to return voucher No.2, i.e. 5 days.

Forwarding to the Customs office of destination advance information on sensitive goods (column 4)

20 countries (69 %) are forwarding to the Customs office of destination advance information on sensitive goods.

Prescribing time-limits and routes to be followed for the transport of sensitive goods (columns 5 and 6)

Time-limits and routes to be followed for the transport of sensitive goods are prescribed by 23 (79 %) and 15 (52 %) countries, respectively.

Number of persons excluded from the TIR regime in accordance with Article 38 of the TIR Convention (column 7)

The total amount of persons excluded from the TIR regime in accordance with Article 38 of the Convention is 184 (in 13 countries), but only a few of them have been reported to the TIR Executive Board in line with the provisions of paragraph 2 of the above article.

Introduction of new security measures to avoid falsification of Customs stamps (column 8)

Only 15 countries (52 %) have introduced new security measures to avoid falsification of Customs stamps. As the lack of protection of Customs stamps has remained an urgent problem for years, it may be concluded that this situation is rather difficult to improve, possibly because of new modern technology which allows to forge any stamps (marks, signs, etc.) to be put on paper-based documents. It seems that in the long term this problem could be solved only by means of introducing into the field of Customs activities alternative principles of data storage and security based on electronic data processing (e.g. magnetic or smart cards) with a high level of protection from unauthorized access.

Opinion on necessity of resolution No.49 for the time being (column 9)

A great majority of countries (23 - 79 %) consider resolution No. 49 to be necessary for the time being, possibly until the TIR revision process is complete.

Opinion on the possible re-introduction of the “Tobacco/Alcohol” TIR Carnets with (US\$) 200,000 guarantee (column 10)

This question has proved to be most controversial: 8 countries answered “Yes”, 8 - “No” and the EC countries have not determined their position having indicated that further analyses would need to be required in this respect. The replies seem to indicate that the real problem with the “Tobacco/Alcohol” TIR Carnets is not only the re-introduction of the guarantee coverage for such goods but also the unwillingness of some countries to allow these goods to be transported under the TIR procedure at present. The latter may be attributed either to the insufficient level of the existing guarantee (US\$ 200,000) or to a lack of trust in functioning of the present TIR guarantee chain.

ANNEX**SUMMARY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON RESOLUTION No. 49**

Country	Introduction of accelerated discharge and search procedure for sensitive goods	Number of working days required for the Customs office of destination to return voucher No.2	Forwarding to the Customs office of destination advance information on sensitive goods	Prescribing time- limits for the transport of sensitive goods	Prescribing routes to be followed for the transport of sensitive goods	Number of persons excluded from the TIR regime in accordance with Article 38 of the TIR Convention	Introduction of new security measures to avoid falsification of Customs stamps	Opinion on necessity of resolution No.49 for the time being: yes - necessary, no - unnecessary	Opinion on the possible re-introduction of the "Tobacco/Alcohol" TIR Carnets with US\$ 200,000 guarantee: yes - favour, no - oppose
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Austria	Yes	15	No	Yes	No	0	No	See EC	See EC
Belarus	Yes	2-10	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	No	No	No
Belgium	Yes	10	Yes	Yes	No	1	No	See EC	See EC
Bulgaria	Yes	5-7	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	No
Croatia	No	5	No	Yes	No	0	No	Yes	Yes
Czech Republic	Information has not been submitted								
Denmark	Yes	5	Yes	No	No	4	Yes	See EC	See EC
Estonia	No	14	No	No	No	0	Yes	Yes	No
Finland	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	No	1	Yes	See EC	See EC
France	Yes	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	See EC	See EC
Germany	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	No	15	Yes	See EC	See EC
Greece	Yes	10-15	No	Yes	Yes	0	No	See EC	See EC
Hungary	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	No	No
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Information has not been submitted								
Ireland	Information has not been submitted								
Italy	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Yes	See EC	See EC
Jordan	Yes	No data	No	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	-	Yes
Latvia	No	2-14	No	Yes	Yes	30	No	Yes	No
Lithuania	Yes	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	No	Yes	Yes
Luxembourg	Yes	2-3	Yes	Yes	No	0	No	See EC	See EC
Netherlands	Information has not been submitted								
Norway	No	1-2	No	No	No	0	No	No	Yes
Poland	No	2-4	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	No	Yes	No
Portugal	Yes	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	See EC	See EC
Romania	No	30	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	No
Russian Federation	Yes	No data	Yes	Yes	Yes	58	Yes	Yes	Yes
Slovakia	No	3	Yes	Yes	No	51	Yes	No	No
Slovenia	No	7	No	No	No	0	No	Yes	Yes
Spain	Yes	27	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	See EC	See EC
Sweden	Yes	2	Yes	No	No	0	No	See EC	See EC
Switzerland	Yes	3	Yes	No	No	12	No	Yes	Yes
Turkey	No	7	No	Yes	Yes	0	Yes	Yes	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes	5	Yes	Yes	No	0	No	See EC	See EC
European Community	See the respective countries above							Yes	Undetermined