

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE



# Strengthening border crossing facilitation

Item 4 (k) of the provisional agenda

Mr. Oleksandr Fedorov  
Vice-Chair WP.30 and Chair AC.3  
26 | 2 | 2020, Geneva

# TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2)

## Main accomplishments

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New accessions in 2019: **Argentina** and **Oman**. 76 contracting parties. Since 23 January 2020, the TIR system is now also active in **Saudi Arabia**, bringing the total number of TIR active countries to 63.

#### Amendment proposals:

- Finalization of the text of amendment proposals to the body of the Convention and **new Annex 11**, introducing eTIR;
- **Formal adoption of the eTIR amendment package** on 6 February 2020. Proposals will now be forwarded to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for circulation and final acceptance by contracting parties;
- Contracting parties (not interested in Annex 11) are urged **NOT** to raise an objection, but, rather to inform the Secretary-General that they do not (yet) accept Annex 11 by **opting out**.

# TIR Administrative Committee (AC.2)

## Challenges

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Audit report of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the TIR Trustfund.

10 recommendations, mainly aimed at:

- **strengthening governance** of the authorized international organization, presently and for the future;
- **study the decline** in the sales of TIR Carnets and develop an action plan;
- develop **alternative financing arrangements** for the TIR Trust Fund;
- develop an **action plan to provide training and support** for recently acceded TIR countries.

# Administrative Committee Harmonization Convention (AC.3)

Main accomplishments

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- 11th (June 2019) and 12th (February 2020) sessions.
- **Biennial survey** on Annex 8.
  - 25 countries replied, but various incomplete answers, as well as no continuity in answers. Thus, survey constitutes only limited source of comparable data on progress.
  - **Future surveys**: dedicated focal points and no longer anonymous
- **Next survey in 2023**, further to the adoption of amendment to Annex 8, Article 7 to extend the delay between two surveys from two to five years.

# Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

Main accomplishments

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- Finalized discussion on **eTIR** and transmitted proposals to AC.2.
- Adopted **comment to Article 1 (o)** (with a reservation from the Russian Federation), allowing for the use of subcontractors (subsequently endorsed by AC.2).
- Adopted **new Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage** and transmitted to ITC for adoption, with the abstention of the European Union Member States, on 19 February 2019; 1 signatory: Chad (26 September 2019).
- Continued **discussing issues** in the 1954 Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Vehicles in Egypt and Jordan.

# Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

Main accomplishments

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Requests from the Inland Transport Committee:

- Survey on the **involvement of customs in enhancing national road safety** (29 countries replied);
- Tentatively agreed to timetable and tasks to **support the ITC strategy until 2030**, subject to further assessment at any time in the future;
- First assessment of the **17 legal instruments** under the auspices of WP.30 at February 2020 session and insertion of recurrent agenda item on the introduction of new technologies for various modes of transport.

# Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

Main accomplishments

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ITC is requested to express its support for **continuing the eTIR project** by:

- **Supporting the prolongation** of the Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on the Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) for the year 2020 **until its conversion** into a formal Group of Experts;
- Urging contracting parties and relevant stakeholders to **secure funds** to make eTIR operational;
- Requesting the secretariat to **continue pilot applications** of the eTIR international system;
- **Approving the establishment** of the Group of Experts Expert Group on the Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (WP.30/GE.1) and endorse its Terms of Reference.

# Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30)

Problems

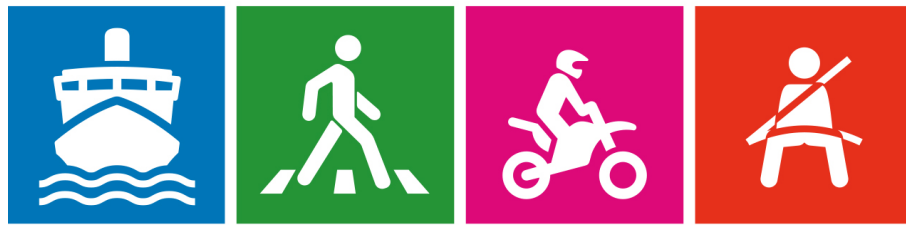
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## Ongoing issues in the implementation of the TIR Convention in the Republic of Belarus:

- Requirement to submit electronic advance data to customs through a unified platform **on a paid basis**;
- Non-residents of Belarus **do not have direct access** to the unified platform, but have to pass through customs brokers (at additional costs);
- According to WP.30, if not against the letter of Article 46 (no charge for normal customs attendance) then certainly **against the spirit of the TIR Convention** (risk of discrimination and against principles of free transit enshrined in the World Trade Organization);
- **Findings transmitted** to Belarus authorities but, so far, without any consequence;
- WP.30 requested Vice-Chair to bring this issue to the attention of ITC.





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**Thank you!**