

# **UNECE practical experience in global customs to customs connectivity for transit**

Seminar for the Promotion of Electronic Exchange of Customs  
Information and the Adoption of Standard Electronic Messages

André Sceia / June 20-21, 2016




# Computerization of UNECE conventions

- Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (**TIR Convention**)
  - Conceptual and technical work : **eTIR project**
  - Legal work ongoing
  - International TIR Data Bank (ITDB)
  
- *Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (**CRM Convention**)*
  - *Legal (eCMR Protocol in force since June 2011)*
  - *No technological considerations at the level of the convention*

# What is TIR


## Example TIR transport

 1 Customs office of departure (Minsk)

 1 Customs office of destination (Barcelona)

 1 intermediate Customs office of departure (Kiev)

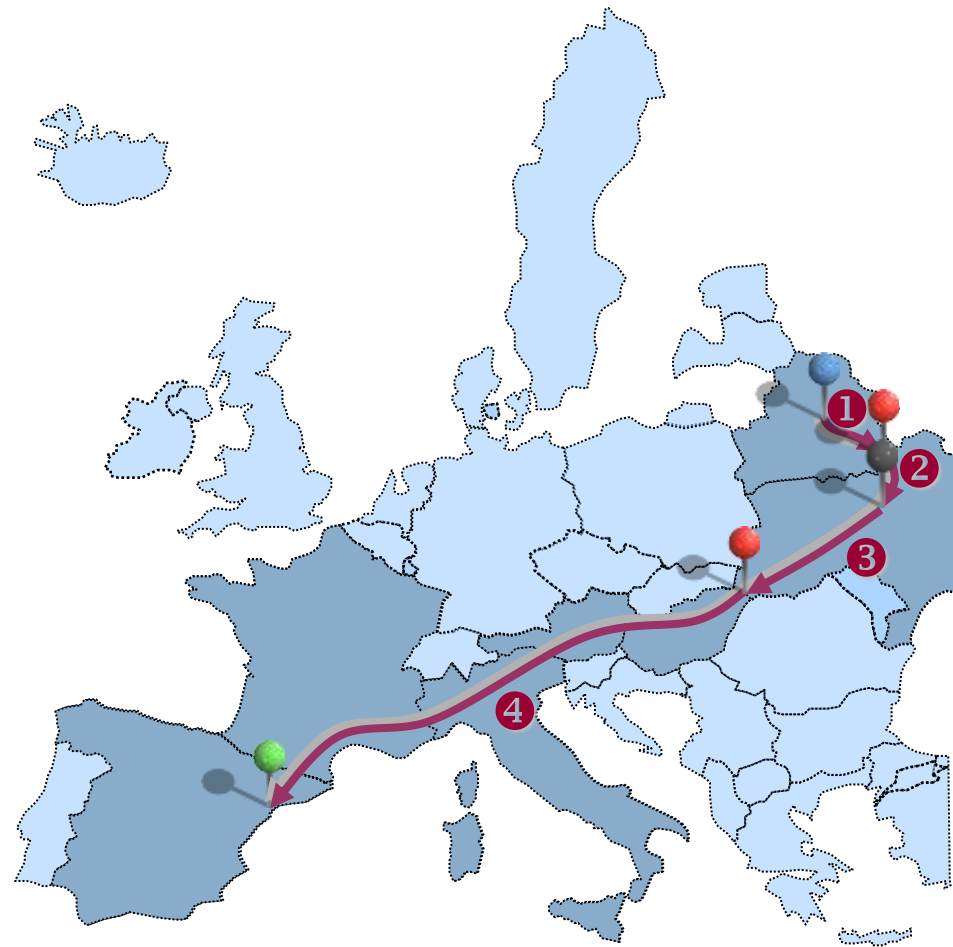
 2 Border crossings

1 TIR transport (1 Guarantee  )

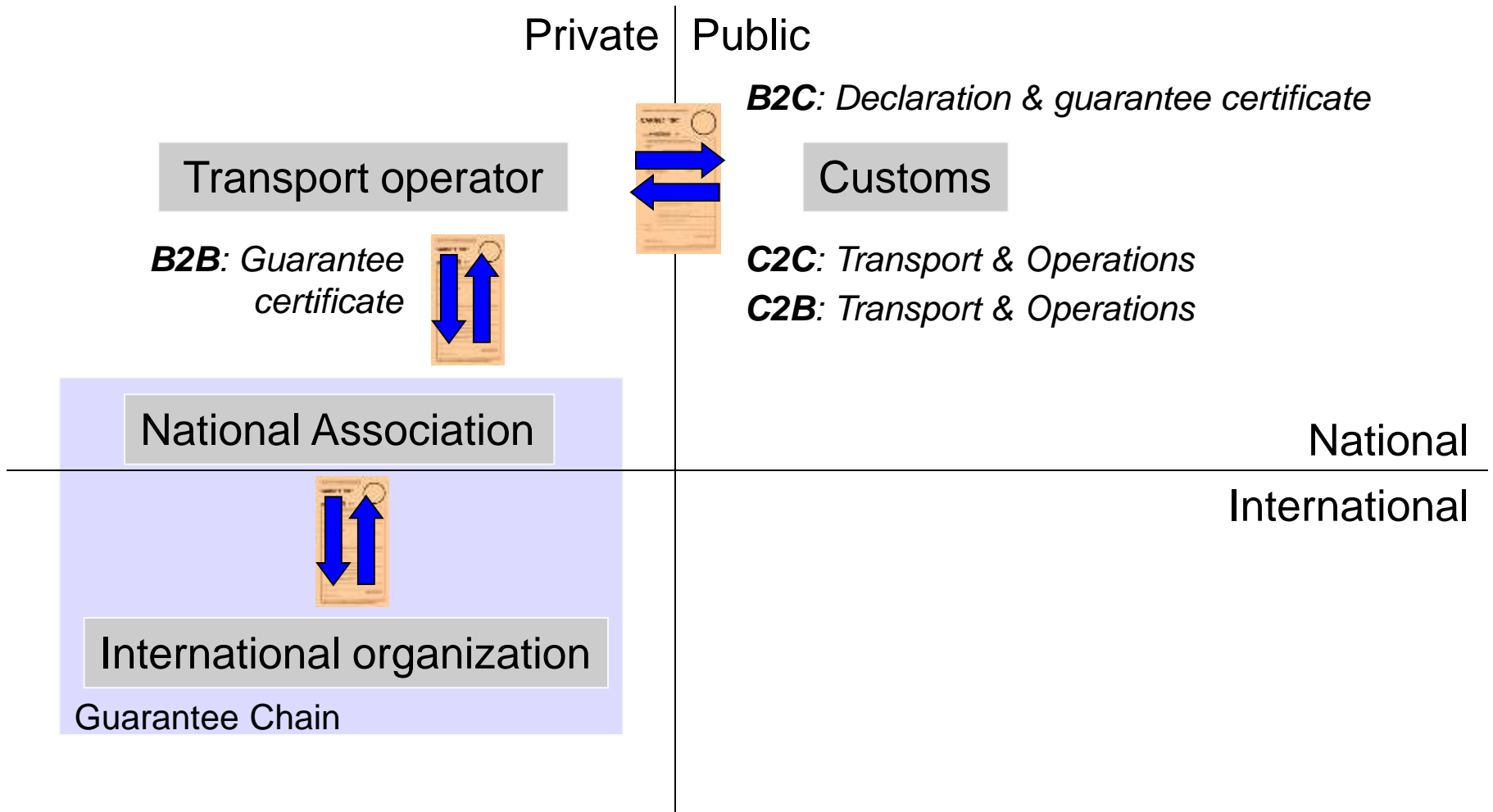
①..④ TIR operations

3 Customs territories

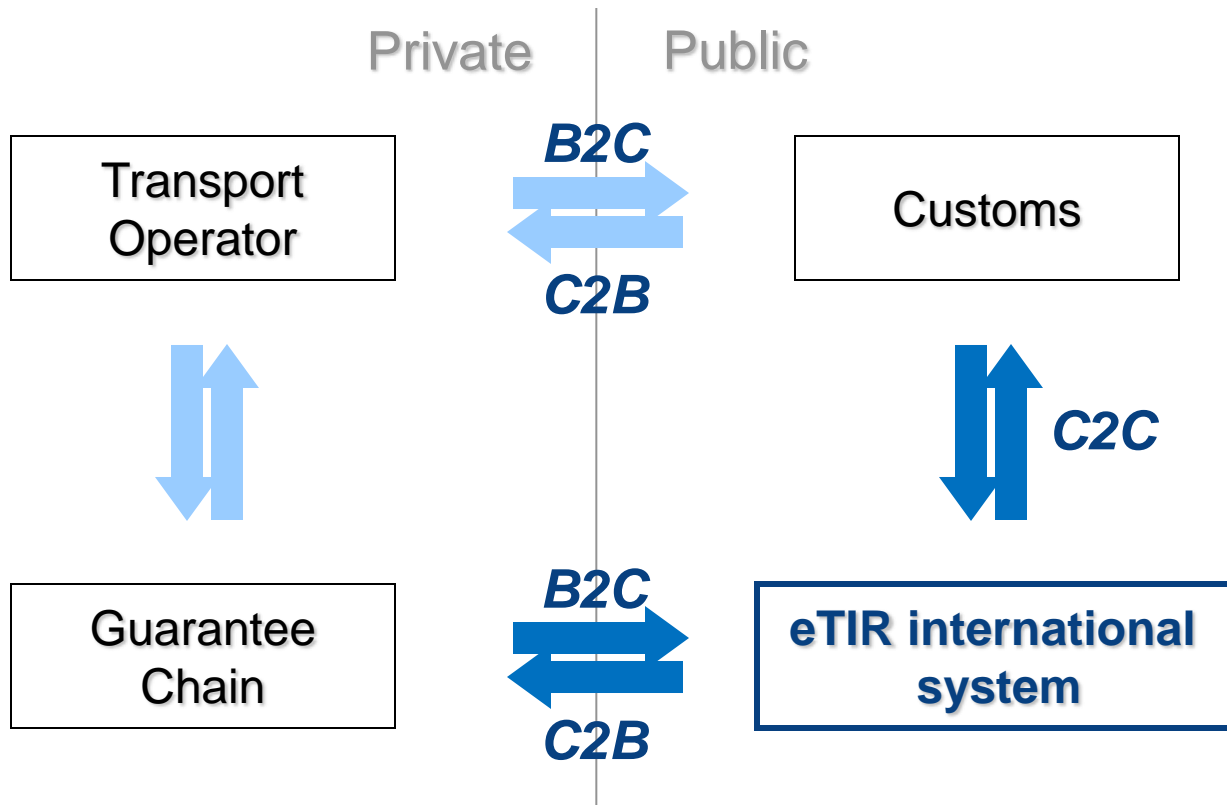
7 Countries



# Rationale for the eTIR project

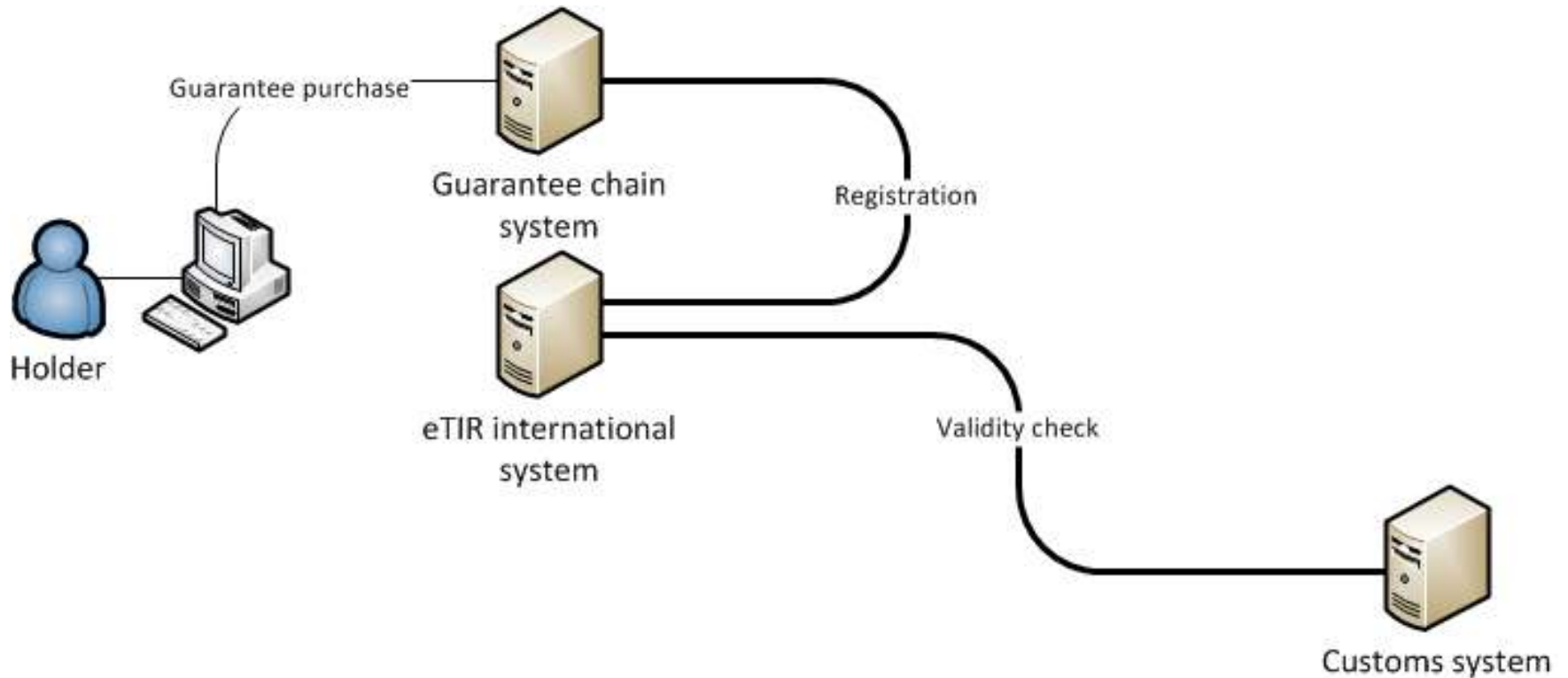


# The eTIR system: a public private partnership



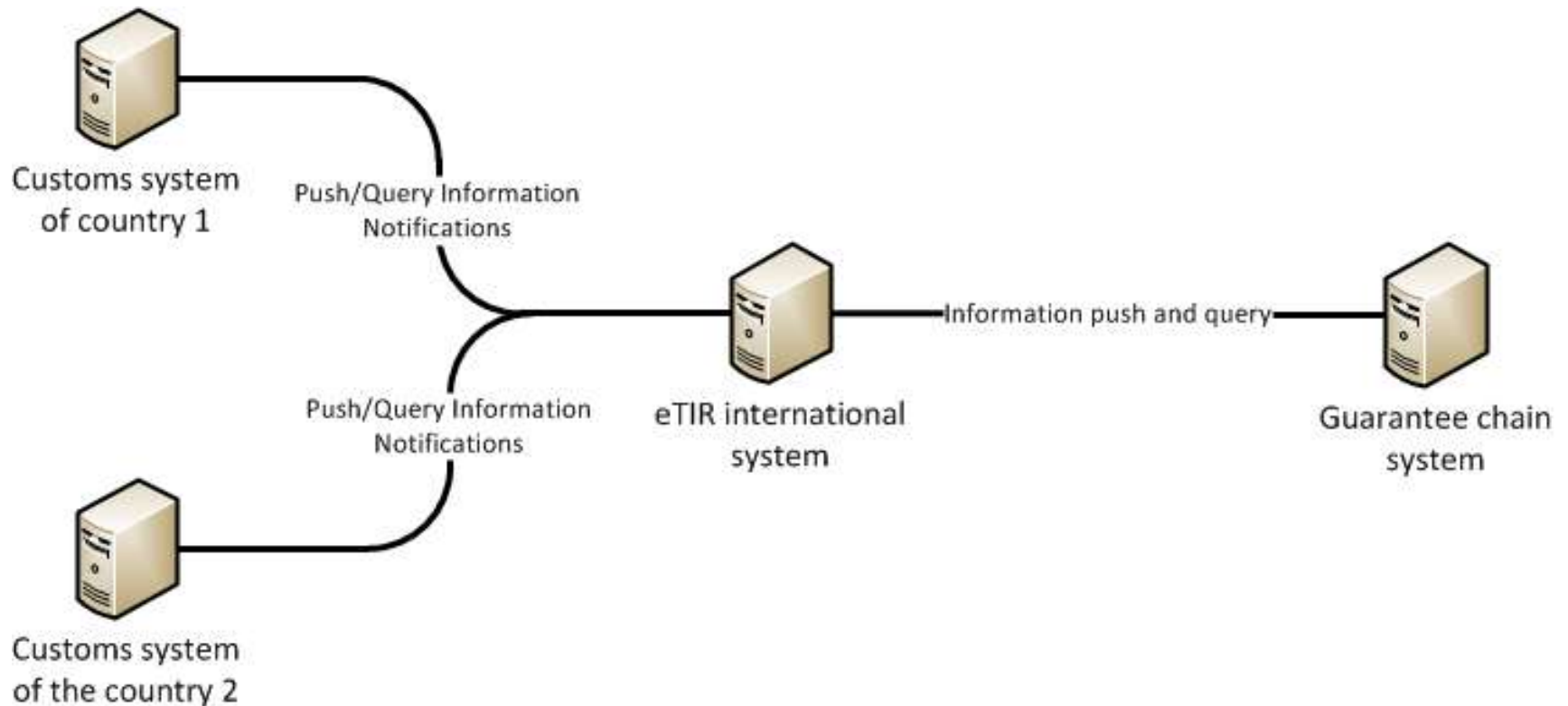
# eTIR main principles

Management of guarantee data by customs



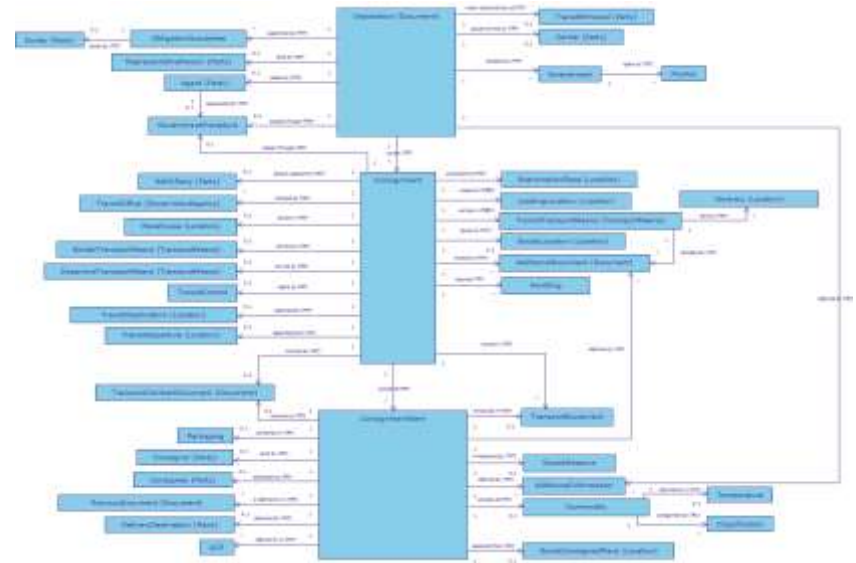
# eTIR main principles

Customs to customs data exchange



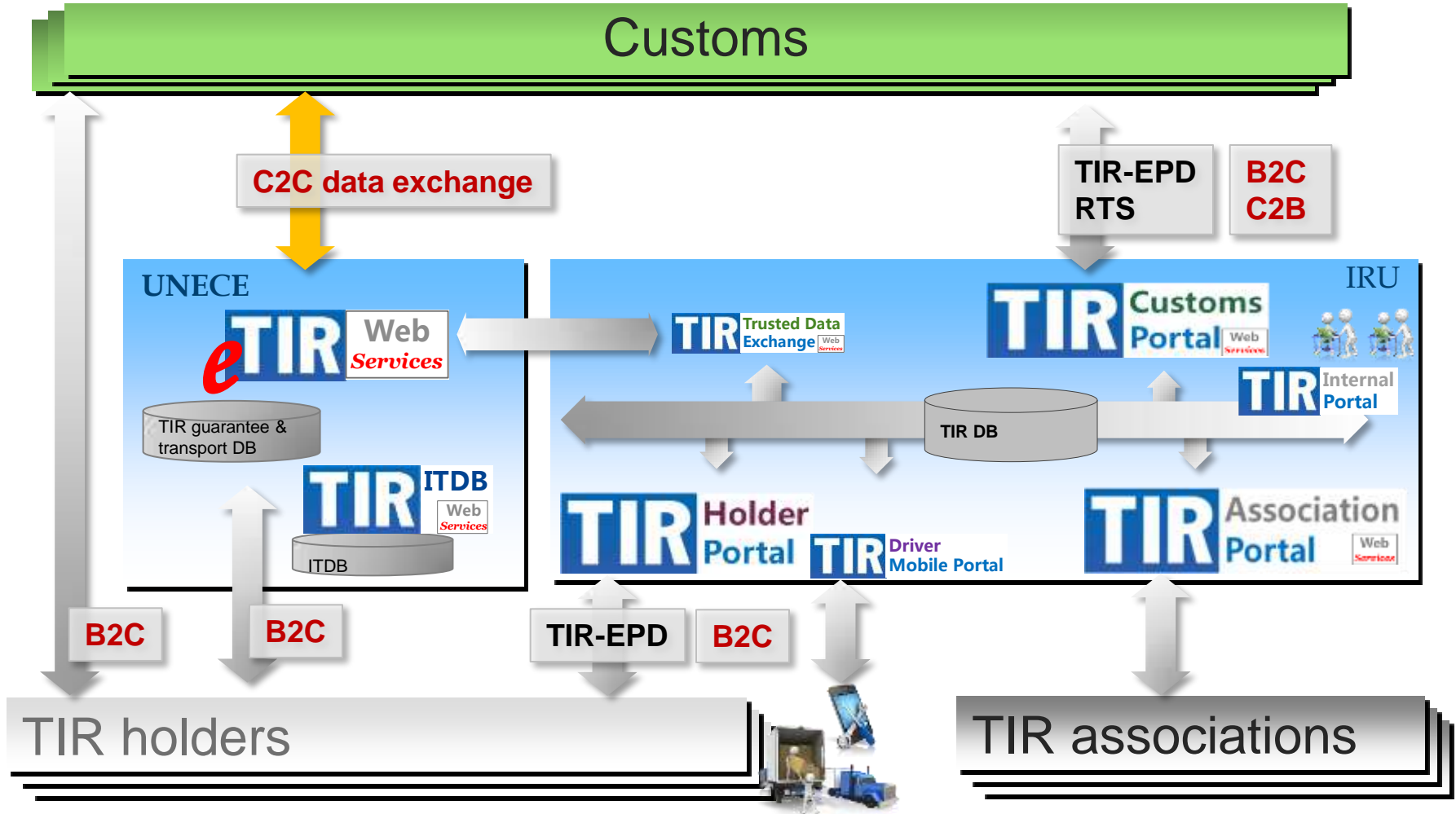
# International standards

- WCO Data model
- WCO Data elements
- UNTDED
- Core components
- UN/EDIFACT
- XML
- Code lists: UNECE, ISO,..
- ...





# eTIR high-level architecture



# The eTIR project: from theory to practice

- Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1)



eTIR Reference Model – Version 4.1a (EN  / FR  / RU )

The reference Model contains the full description of the TIR Procedure Computerization Project. This document is intended to facilitate the work of the Informal ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure and to provide modelling support.

- eTIR pilot projects
  - Georgia-Turkey
  - Iran-Turkey
- Group of Experts on Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.2)
  - Works on the legal provisions

# The practice : the eTIR pilot projects

- UNECE-IRU eTIR pilot project between Iran and Turkey



- Georgia-Turkey eTIR pilot project

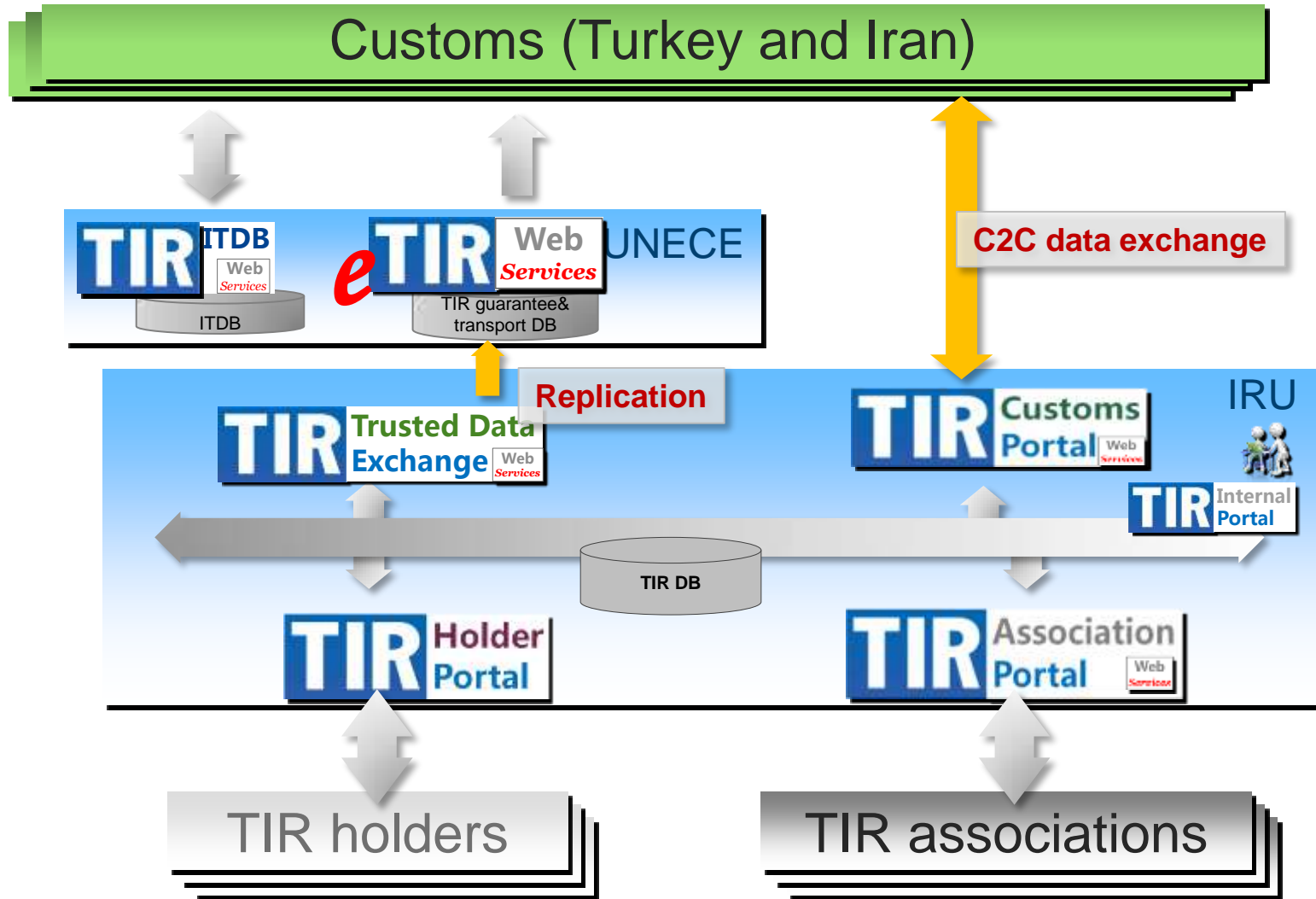


# UNECE-IRU eTIR pilot project between Iran and Turkey

- Legal basis : Terms of Reference (**ToR**) signed by Customs, associations, UNECE and IRU.
- Use IRU IT systems for the operational data exchange with **replication** of data on a dedicated IT system hosted at UNECE (Light-weight eTIR international system).
- TIR Carnets replaced by exchanges of **electronic messages** and a signed «**print-at-home**» version of the TIR Carnet (for the declaration)
- **eGuarantees** replace TIR Carnets as proof of guarantee
- **Limited application** for the pilot:  
limited number of transport companies,  
limited number of Customs offices,  
1 border crossing points.
- Partially funded by **IRU**.



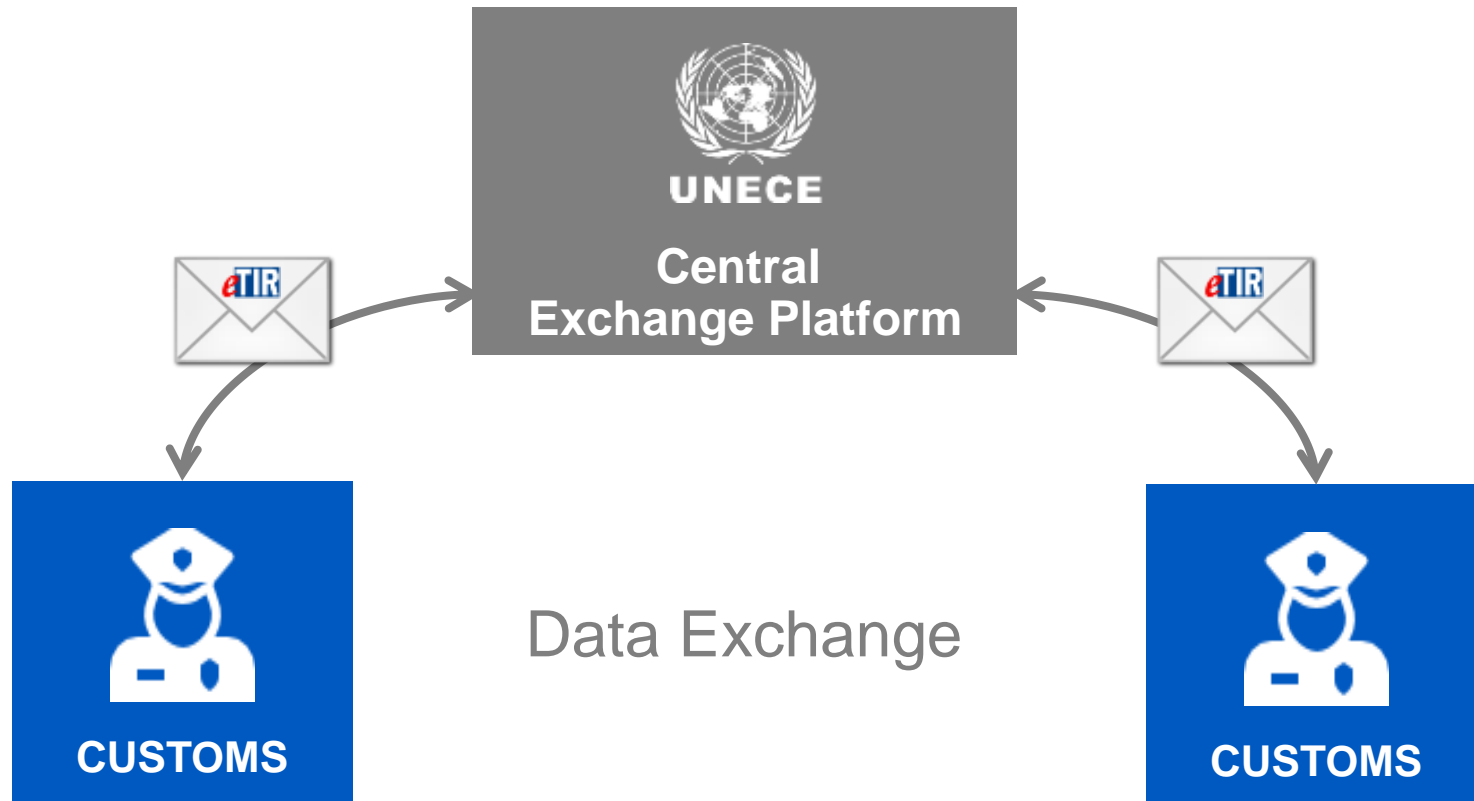
# Systems used for the UNECE-IRU eTIR pilot project



# Georgia-Turkey eTIR pilot project

- Legal basis : **Protocol** on electronic data exchange in the framework of a joint eTIR Pilot Project, signed by Mr. Nodar Khaduri, Minister of Finance of Georgia, and Mr. Bülent Tüfenkci, Minister of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey.
- Use a versatile Central Exchange Platform (**CEP**) hosted at UNECE.
- C2C exchange of **standard** eTIR electronic messages on TIR transports between both countries (WCO data model).
- **Paper TIR Carnets** are used in parallel.
- Data exchange about **all TIR transports** between both countries.
- Partially funded by a global United Nations Development Account (**UNDA**) project.

# CEP used for the Georgia-Turkey eTIR pilot project



# Outcomes

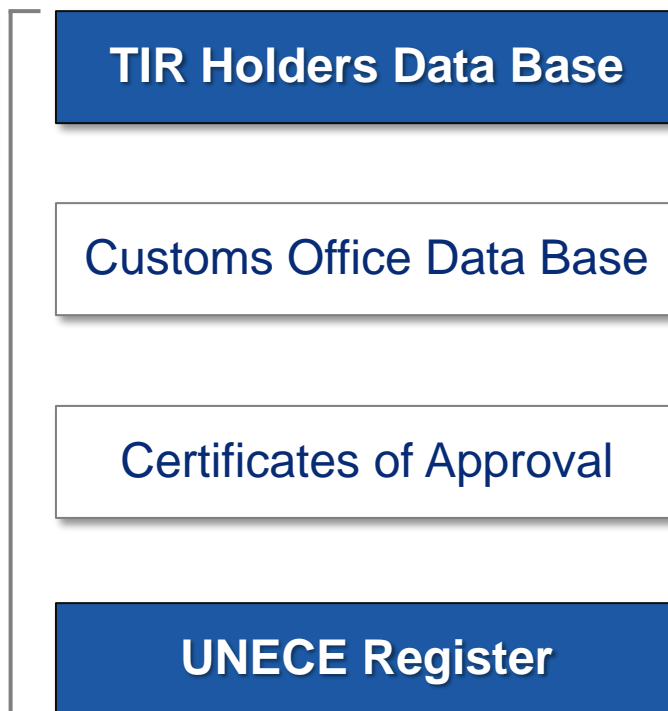
- The UNECE-IRU eTIR pilot has demonstrated that the paper TIR Carnet can be replaced by an exchange of electronic messages for C2C data exchange and proof of guarantee.
- All parties involved (including transport operators) expressed great satisfaction and want to continue and extend the project.
- The eTIR pilot project between Georgia and Turkey will demonstrate the feasibility of using a generic exchange platform for C2C data exchange.
- Main challenges ahead:
  - prepare legal provisions, including the replacement of paper signatures by an electronic alternative valid internationally;
  - finance more resilient IT infrastructures.



# eTIR legal considerations

- Group of Experts on Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.2) researching
  - Best legal framework
    - amending the TIR Convention
    - **an optional Annex**
    - **a protocol**
    - a new convention
  - Other legal considerations
    - Authentication and data integrity (eSignature, X.842, ...)
    - Data protection

# ITDB



# Thank you

**André Sceia** PhD  
UNECE TIR SECRETARIAT  
Transport Division

8-14, Avenue de la Paix  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Phone: +41 22 917 1313  
Fax: +41 22 917 0614  
Email: [etir@unece.org](mailto:etir@unece.org)  
Web: <http://etir.unece.org>