

**Statement by the Executive Secretary
Joint Ceremony for the eTIR System Legal Framework
25 May 2021
Room Tempus 2 – Palais des Nations**

Today is an important day for all Contracting Parties to the TIR Convention. Today, Annex 11 to the Convention enters into force and with that, a new, more sustainable and promising era starts for the TIR system.

Annex 11 establishes the so-called eTIR procedure, allowing all Contracting Parties to conduct cross-border TIR transports by means of electronic exchange of data, without the use of paper TIR Carnets. ECE and IRU are joining forces today (as they have done for over 70 years!), and we're celebrating this unique and long-awaited moment in the history of the TIR Convention.

The eTIR international system aims to ensure secure exchange of data between national customs systems about the international transit of goods, vehicles or containers. This is done according to the provisions of the TIR Convention and allows customs to manage the data on guarantees, issued by the guarantee chain to holders authorized to use the TIR system.

eTIR is the global United Nations border crossing facilitation tool.

It will further secure the TIR system.

It will make the TIR system more competitive and efficient.

It will create paperless, contactless, and therefore seamless border crossings operations.

Let me express heartfelt gratitude to all governments, IRU, the national associations and of course my colleagues in the secretariat for their endurance and perseverance to arrive at this historic moment.

Thank you.