

**Regional TIR Seminar
Issyk Kul, Kyrgyz Republic
(25 and 26 July 2012)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants and experts of the participating countries and international organizations, namely, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russian Federation, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Eurasian Economic Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and International Road Transport Union (IRU);

welcoming the organization of the Regional TIR Seminar by the TIR Executive Board and the UNECE TIR secretariat, in close co-operation with the State Customs Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic;

acknowledging that improvement of the conditions of transport, particularly international road transport of goods, is an essential factor for the development of cooperation among the countries in Central Asia and beyond and for their further economic development;

realizing that the simplification and harmonization of administrative formalities at border crossings, together with adequate control measures to protect the legitimate interests of the countries in the region, would contribute to transport and trade facilitation and would help mitigate the consequences of the global economic crisis;

recognizing that an efficient Customs transit system is of vital importance to the competitiveness of landlocked countries on the global market;

noting that these elements are adequately addressed in the United Nations Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) which has already been accepted by 67 countries;

stressing the importance of Central Asia, which is a bridge between the European Union, Turkey, countries of the former Soviet Union and Asian countries, for the global application of the TIR system;

noting with satisfaction an increase in the number of TIR operations and TIR Carnets issued in the region;

recognizing that the benefits of the TIR system can be considerably enhanced in a computerized environment and that many IT solutions have been already introduced both by the public and private sectors (SafeTIR, TIR-EPD, CuteWISE, NCTS, ITDBonline+, national computerized Customs transit systems, etc.);

1. Encourage countries in the region to faithfully implement the provisions of the TIR Convention with a view to ensuring an unimpeded application of the facilities offered by the Convention, thus promoting international road transport and trade within the region and beyond.
2. Urge the competent authorities in the region, in order to strike a delicate balance between security and facilitation, to efficiently apply risk management tools and modern equipment as well as to mutually recognize Customs control measures taken in other TIR Contracting Parties, rather than performing frequent and costly inspections of cargo and vehicles.
3. Invite countries in the region to study and possibly implement examples of best practices, as contained in the TIR Handbook and in the recently published UNECE-OSCE Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings.
4. Encourage competent authorities and national TIR associations to maintain and further strengthen the application of the provisions of Annex 9, Part II to the Convention, thus ensuring full control over TIR Carnet holders authorized to use the TIR system, not only when an application is lodged but also at regular intervals after authorization has been granted, by taking advantage of various available IT tools.
5. Request competent authorities and authorized TIR Carnet Holders to ensure that road vehicles and containers used in the TIR system conform to the technical prescriptions set out in Annexes 2 and 7 of the TIR Convention.
6. Call upon all major stakeholders, both public and private, to collaborate, in a constructive spirit of partnership, with the aim to speed up the realization of the eTIR project aiming at the full computerization of the TIR system.
7. Invite competent authorities and national TIR associations from the region to actively participate in sessions of the competent bodies of the TIR Convention and other meetings regarding the TIR Convention, including the activities conducted under the eTIR project.
8. Invite all countries which are not yet Contracting Parties to consider acceding to the TIR Convention and request UNECE and IRU to render any required support in this respect.

Issyk Kul, 26 July 2012