



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
RESTRICTED

Informal document No. 8 (2003)
1 September 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions

affecting Transport

(One-hundred-and-fourth session, 23-26 September 2003,
agenda item 7 (c) (vii))

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

Application of the Convention

**Application of the TIR Convention on the territory of the Customs Union between
the Russian Federation and Belarus**

Transmitted by the International Road Transport Union (IRU)

In document TRANS/WP.30/2003/17 from the Russian Federation the application of the TIR Convention on the Customs Union between the Russian Federation and Belarus was explained with examples referring to transports West → East and East → West.

IRU and its national Associations are still looking forward to more information about the consequences for the TIR Guarantee System of the Customs Union. In this context, IRU understands that the "Board of the Customs Committee of the Allied State" has issued a resolution on the matter, dated 17 July 2003. IRU has made a copy of the resolution available for the TIR Secretariat.

The practical and legal questions, which IRU has met in this context, are the following:

1. West → East

As described in document TRANS/WP.30/2003/17 no stamp can be obtained from Belarusian customs authorities at the customs office of Departure (en route) at the border with the Russian Federation. The voucher foreseen (n° 2) should - according to the document - be stamped by the customs office of Destination in the Russian Federation. This does not always happen or even if the procedure is followed the stamp is not always respected, which means that the carnet is considered as not terminated in Belarus, leading to notification and claims. Out of 71 reclamations presented by Belarusian authorities in 2002, 35 were related to this procedure.

Some of the TIR carnets in question have also given rise to reclamations from the authorities of the Russian Federation.

2. East → West

The procedure described in the above mentioned document corresponds to the procedure known from the European Union. As no stamp is to be obtained when leaving the territory of the Russian Federation, it has to be confirmed that the stamp from the customs office of departure (en route) in Belarus is recognised by the Russian Federation as proof of discharge. As far as IRU has noted the procedure described is not yet always followed.

3. Transit

No explanation is given regarding the effect of the Customs Union on the discharge procedure for transit transports to and from Central Asian countries.
