

Speaking notes Umberto de Pretto

- The key role that the TIR system plays in facilitating trade while keeping a high level of security at the borders, recalling how TIR helped EU countries to reconnect after the Second World War.
- TIR is set to play a crucial role in political and economic stability in the ESCWA region, similar to the European experience, TIR can widely contribute to attracting the much-needed investments and creating new jobs across the region.
- TIR proved its efficiency in the Middle East referring to the important level of trade movements under TIR before the borders closure between Syria and Turkey.
 - Today, TIR still in use for bilateral trade movements between Syria & Lebanon.
- The importance of an effective implementation in getting the maximum benefits out of TIR, stressing that a max number of customs offices must be open for TIR.
- TIR shall cover all trade scenarios; including transportation of goods in transit between FZs where TIR can effectively facilitate trade movements in a secure and efficient way.
- Few examples from GCC recent achievements :
 - TIR cuts transport time between UAE and Jordan to 4 days instead of usual 7-8 (50% time saving)
 - TIR reduces transit time between KSA & Oman by 72%
 - TIR reduces transit time between KSA & UAE by 92%
- Harmonized customs procedures is key in optimising TIR benefits and enhancing intra-regional trade.
- Taking this opportunity to invite countries that did not yet join TIR to complete the accession process as soon as possible (Iraq, Sudan in view of Egypt's accession, Bahrain as the only remaining GCC country). A mention to Egypt as they recently deposited the instrument of accession to the UN.
- The IRU is available to support countries in the accession, implementation and re-activation of TIR