



RESOLUTION
of the 19th International Conference
“International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”

We, the delegates of the 19th International Conference “International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”, held on 4-5 September 2019 in Odessa, Ukraine,

fully aware of the fundamental changes in transport and logistics in the context of the growing fourth industrial revolution, achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), implementing shared principles of Muscat Compact, endorsed at the IRU World Congress in Oman on 6-8 November 2018, and of the Ministerial Resolution on “Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonisation and Integration in the Era of Transport Digitalisation and Automation”, adopted at the 81st session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (19 February 2019);

stressing a pivotal role of road transport in achieving SDGs, connecting societies with safe, efficient, green mobility and logistics;

marking the 70th anniversary of the TIR Convention, the global standard for customs transit, helping to drive economic growth, prosperity and security;

welcoming full operationalisation of TIR in China and opening all its checkpoints to international road transport under TIR, geographical expansion of key UN international agreements and conventions, facilitating trade, transport and transit;

committed to the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions 69/213 on transport and transit corridors, 70/197 on connectivity and corridors, 72/212 on modal cooperation, through gradual development of interregional transport links between Western, Central and Eastern Europe, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea regions, Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia, with a gateway to the Asia-Pacific area, in particular the road transport and multimodal corridors of TRACECA, GUAM, SCO, INSTC, Lapis Lazuli, connecting with the Asian Highway (AH) and Trans-European transport networks (TEN-T);

promoting digitalisation, including of transport documents, in particular in the areas of TIR (eTIR) and CMR (e-CMR), deployment of new technologies, such as intelligent transport systems, automated/autonomous and connected vehicles;

emphasising the creation of incentives for the industry to decarbonise and favourable conditions for fleets renewal that meet high ecological standards and safety requirements, thus contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as the UN General Assembly Resolutions 70/260 and 72/271 on road safety;

taking into account the need for the ongoing harmonisation of criteria and requirements referred to by international road transport operators when accessing the market of transport services, as well as increasing the scope of multilateral permit systems;

fully supporting the consistency in building professional excellence of drivers and managers in road transport companies, which promotes a positive image of the industry,

hereby address national governments, international organisations and all stakeholders concerned by the development of sustainable road transport, and recommend to

- amend regulatory provisions and standards so that they comply with the relevant international and UN conventions and agreements, providing seamless cross-border transport and transit;
- take urgent collective actions across all transport modes to digitalise the industry and effectively pave the way for intermodal freight transport and full logistics interoperability;
- ensure a smooth transition to paperless document flow in road transport by rolling out digital TIR and the electronic consignment note (e-CMR), and serving the needs of all key players of supply chain;
- increase TIR guarantee limits up to EUR 100 000 and apply the new ones/further promote the existing TIR tools – iCarnet (a guarantee for customs transit between customs authorities of the same country), TIR+ (increased guarantee under TIR), eTIR, TIR-EPD (TIR Electronic Pre-Declaration), launch intermodal pilots under cover of TIR and encourage wider use of TIR subcontracting;

- take steps for signing new bilateral and multilateral agreements on international road transport with China and other countries in Asia and Middle East that shall provide access for foreign transport operators to Chinese and Asian countries freight cargo, and geographical expansion of international road transport in new directions;
- join new eTIR pilots, run by IRU together with the UNECE, and expand digital TIR between Turkey and Iran, Georgia and Turkey, Turkey and Ukraine, and along the Batumi corridor which links Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan;
- accede to the electronic consignment note (e-CMR) Protocol of the UN's Convention on transporting cargo by road, the CMR, and put it into practice of international road transport operations;
- amend national legislation so that it incorporates provisions on compulsory initial and periodic training of drivers, as well as minimum safety requirements and quality standards;
- enhance drivers' working conditions, and attract a new and more diverse workforce to the driver profession, helping close the driver shortage gap;
- facilitate visa procedures and issue multi-entry yearly visas for professional drivers, swiftly introduce digital visas (e-visas);
- accelerate progress towards modernising the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in international Road Transport (AETR) with regard to the use of smart tachographs, in order to support trade and tourism and prevent disruption to the international supply chain;
- amend bilateral intergovernmental agreements on international road transport, by removing transit and bilateral permits for the transport of goods, increasing the scope of multilateral permit systems;
- contribute to the creation of conditions necessary for unlocking the potential of transport market and foreign trade of our countries, by raising awareness of the transport ministries and relevant authorities, responsible for the regulation of the transport industry, of the best practices to facilitate international road transport operations and move towards implementation of permit-free transport systems;

- further promote high-quality and safe infrastructure to guarantee minimum standards for drivers at the borders and on the road along the international transport and transit routes, particularly TRACECA, GUAM, SCO, INSTC, Lapis Lazuli and the Black Sea Ring Highway corridors, connecting the Trans-European transport network (TEN-T) with the Asian Highway network (AH);
- monitor regularly the situation at border crossings and based on international best practices, facilitate legitimate trade and transport across borders in order to advance economic development and promote regional stability and cooperation;
- create conditions for fair competition and transparent access to the market of transport services, by updating national legislation to comply with the provisions provided by the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System, and inevitable removal of existing restrictions for ECMT permits;
- provide real business incentives and regulatory support to drive decarbonisation efforts, promote energy-efficient and innovative vehicle technologies that meet global standards, using operational and financial leasing instruments.

Odessa, Ukraine, 5 September 2019