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IRU RESOLUTION ON SECURITY IN ROAD TRANSPORT

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The International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Considering that

- the globalisation of economic and social activity has also created a globalisation of crime;
- terrorists and international criminals are increasingly targeting not only commercial vehicles (buses, coaches and trucks) and high-value cargo, but are also smuggling goods and would-be illegal immigrants for profit, protected by the inefficient application of the law;
- the activities of terrorists and international criminals are increasingly threatening the well-being and even life of passengers and drivers of road vehicles employed in international transport;
- it is totally unjustified and contrary to equity and human rights that illegal immigrants using a commercial vehicle without the knowledge of the transport operator or the driver, should immediately receive financial and social relief from the country of immigration, whereas the vehicle is seized and its driver often imprisoned by the same Authorities, without any right of appeal.
- the non-delivery of goods to the Customs of final destination is, in fact, feeding the black market and preventing the payment of Customs duties and other charges by the consignee;
- fraudulent activities are destroying honest trade and transport operators to the exclusive profit of national and international crime;
- the fight should be intensified against international criminals and terrorists using passengers, vehicles, road infrastructure, high-value cargo, and dangerous goods carried as tools or targets;
- globalised crime can only be successfully opposed by targeted Government actions, in cooperation with international instances and specialised national and international agencies;
- inaction and unilateral, non-harmonised or discriminatory national or international legislation against drivers, as well as passenger and goods transport operators are, in fact, protecting the defrauders and all actors involved in international crime;

Calls upon Governments to

- apply all possible preventive measures in the fight against international terrorism and criminal activities at national and international levels in co-operation with the road transport industry;
- take and guide effective measures against crime rings specialising in smuggling and human trafficking for their sole profit;
- reinforce the control and application of national law and international conventions, permitting the identification and sanctioning of all beneficiaries of illegal activities;
- provide fair and humane treatment, as well as all necessary assistance (legal and otherwise) to all commercial vehicle drivers and owners involved in the transport of illegal immigrants without their knowledge;
- preserve the trade facilitation benefits provided by international customs transit systems, such as the Common Transit and the TIR systems;
- increase the efficiency of state control and crime prevention, by police, other authorities and licensed special private organisations against smuggling and the laundering of huge financial profits;
- cooperate with the national organisations representing the transport industry, including trade associations, to exchange information;
- increase the number of secure parking places and provide more accurate information on their facilities and location in co-operation with private business;
- improve border crossing conditions and facilities in order to reduce access by terrorists and criminals to drivers, vehicles, cargo and information;
- reinforce criteria of admission to the occupation of transport operator in order to filter applicants according to intensified qualitative criteria;
- make consignors and consignees co-responsible for fraudulent and illegal activities in road transport operations;
- promote international security standards through the World Customs Organisation, the World Trade Organisation and other relevant bodies, to create a secure environment without impeding commerce and tourism, or undermining the efficiency and reliability of the road transport industry: effective and efficient measures, including risk management, should be developed and applied according to cost-benefit analysis;

Calls upon transport associations and operators to

- implement, in their daily business, risk management procedures established by the profession, including all the IRU rules, procedures and recommendations to counter terrorism, crime and fraudulent activities;
- encourage the development of internal security management systems within companies;
- reinforce the criteria for access to the facilities provided by Customs transit systems and association membership;
- promote and implement the best tried and tested fraud and crime prevention practices;
- support the use of modern information and communication technologies in daily operations, including vehicle and goods tracking;
- support, recommend and apply the use of industry codes of conduct, rules and recommendations aimed at making the environment of transport operations secure;

- entrust dangerous goods transport safety advisors with the special task of reducing the risk of terrorism, in partnership with consignors and consignees;
- improve the information flow and quality of driver training with special attention to security and the risk of terrorism, illegal immigration and fraud;
- exchange information among Associations and, if necessary, with the competent Authorities, on issues of relevance in the fight against terrorism, illegal immigration, smuggling and crime;
- co-operate fully on all issues with police and other authorities including licensed special private agencies;
- extend co-operation with other transport modes with due regard to ensuring security in the full intermodal transport and supply chains.
