

CTM/GE2498/JHU

Geneva, 3 April 2014

IRU RESOLUTION ON THE WTO BALI AGREEMENT

Unanimously adopted by the IRU Goods Transport Council (CTM) at their meeting in Geneva on 3 April 2014

IRU Resolution on the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Bali Agreement

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), representing road transport operators through its 170 Members Associations in 75 countries across all five continents,

Recall that professional road transport is no longer merely a mode of transport but has become, in today's globalised economy, a vital production tool in every sustainable supply chain, driving economic, social and environmental progress throughout the world;

Mindful of the fact that every penalty on road transport is an even bigger penalty on the economy as a whole;

Aware of the results of scientific studies which show that the absence of harmonised procedures at borders can lead to up to 57% of transport time lost at border crossings creating an environment conducive to unofficial levies amounting to almost 38% of transport costs;

Welcoming the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade Facilitation ("WTO Bali Agreement"), as adopted at the WTO's Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, on 7 December 2013, in the framework of the Doha Development Agenda;

Supporting the principles of the Bali Agreement to reduce red tape, promote Customs modernisation, provide for simplified, harmonised and seamless procedures to allow goods to move along the supply chain more easily, more rapidly and at lower cost;

Recall that the UN trade and transport conventions, such as the TIR and Harmonization Conventions, are the best tools to improve Customs procedures;

Resolve that the IRU will provide its assistance and support to the WTO and its Member States as they implement the Bali Agreement, without prejudice to existing and future national regulations, bilateral or multilateral arrangements related to regulating transport;

Recall the IRU Amman Declaration "Road Transport: Driving Regional and Intercontinental Trade" unanimously adopted at the 7th IRU Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference in Amman, Jordan on 13 June 2013, which asked governments to take action to remove barriers from commercial road transport, both domestic and foreign, by strengthening the principle of Freedom of Transit as enshrined in Article V of the GATT.

IRU
RESOLUTION

Calls upon governments to:

- Ratify the Bali Agreement without any delay;
- Implement existing UN Trade and Transport Conventions, such as the TIR and Harmonization Conventions, as they are the most efficient way to implement the Bali Agreement.

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