

IRU RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS

Adopted by the IRU General Assembly in Geneva on 8 November 2002

The International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Preoccupied, on the one hand, by the increasing problems professional drivers are facing in obtaining visas,

Noting, on the other hand, the recent encouraging signs of a possibly changing approach taken by a number of key international organisations and bodies dealing with these problems, like the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT); the European Commission (DG Justice and Home Affairs); the UN Economic Commission for Europe (Transport Division),

Conscious of the complex nature of the issues and its multiple political, security, trade and market-related aspects,

Confirming its continuous attachment to and support for the measures to facilitate the issuance of visas to professional drivers as identified in its Resolution adopted at the XXVIth IRU World Congress in Marrakech in 1998,

Launches an urgent appeal to national and international authorities dealing with visa issuance to professional drivers to:

Acknowledge the harmful impact of this specific barrier for the development of efficient trade, tourism and transport relations, by conferring it a high priority on their political and administrative agendas,

Deepen and sustain the cooperation with the private sector in the search for workable solutions of visa-related problems,

Recognise the special status of professional drivers and elaborate a reliable common identification document to be issued by the competent authorities of the State of establishment and recognised by consular authorities,

Enhance co-operation between relevant authorities with the objective to create more harmonised and simplified procedures and share best practices at regional and inter-regional level; the IRU General Assembly welcomes efforts in the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC) region aimed at facilitating the issuance of driver visas. The planned measures in a co-operative framework between Governments and private business organisations (transport associations under the umbrella of BSEC-URTA) may serve as a positive example for other regions of the World.

Refrain from using visas as market regulators.

Simplify the issuance of visas:

- generalise the issue of annual multi-entry visas to professional drivers,
- introduce simplified driver-friendly procedures,
- reduce prices for visas issued to professional drivers.
