



**IRU**



**International Conference on Prospects of Trade and International Road Transport Development in the Black Sea, Central Asia and Middle East Regions**

**Kaya Hotel Balçova, Izmir - Turkey  
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*Under the Patronage of HE Binali Yıldırım,*

*Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey*

**Declaration**

Participants in the International Conference on Prospects of Trade and International Road Transport Development in the Black Sea, Central Asia and Middle East Regions,

*Considering that*

- In today's globalised economy, professional road transport is no longer merely a mode of transport but has become a vital production tool, driving economic, social and environmental progress throughout the world.
- The world economic crisis has hindered general economic development and international economic cooperation except in regions where road transport has been promoted and further facilitated to expedite economic recovery, recognising efficient international road transport as a pre-requisite for economic growth everywhere and in particular for landlocked countries along the ancient Silk Road.
- Border waiting times, reaching days, if not weeks in some regions across the Euro-Asian landmass, account for 40% of time lost during transport, according to the findings of the IRU's New Euro-Asian Land Transport Initiative (NELTI), and create an environment conducive to encouraging unofficial payments, which can account for over 30% of transport costs according to the IRU's NELTI.
- Tried and tested multilateral trade and road transport facilitation instruments, such as the UN Harmonization and TIR Conventions, allow significant reduction in border waiting times.
- The IRU's Model Highway Initiative (MHI) was designed to further facilitate international trade and road transport as a complement to the key multilateral trade and transport facilitation instruments, which must firstly be fully implemented, and as a means to develop the necessary ancillary infrastructure to permit road transport to drive progress, prosperity and ultimately peace along the ancient Silk Road.
- Vocational training, as provided by the IRU Academy, is imperative to build professional capacities to ensure that the road transport industry can play its vital role in driving economic development, social equity and environmental protection.

*Call upon governments to*

- Facilitate trade by international road transport by eliminating barriers, discriminatory measures and difficulties hindering the road transport industry from driving progress, prosperity and ultimately peace.
- Effectively implement multilateral trade and road transport facilitation and security instruments, such as the TIR Convention, the UN International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 21 October 1982, and its Annex 8, as well as other key UNECE international conventions, WTO legal instruments and the WCO SAFE Framework.
- Develop and maintain, in public-private partnership, roads and roadside ancillaries, as well as border crossing points, secure truck parking facilities, as per the IRU's Model Highway Initiative (MHI) after the key trade and road transport facilitation instruments have been effectively implemented.
- Take action to end all discriminatory measures against commercial road transport vehicles, both domestic and foreign, and allow transport operators to use the most convenient routes for their export-import and transit operations respecting the principle of Freedom of Transit as enshrined in Article V of the GATT.
- Facilitate the unimpeded visa issuance to professional drivers with long-term validity and for an unlimited number of entries.
- Actively promote and support the vocational training as provided by the IRU Academy with a view to enhancing the efficiency, professionalism, safety and sustainability of the road transport industry.
- Facilitate cross-border transport through the implementation and widespread use of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate as part of Annex 8 to the UNECE International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982.
- Secure and reduce border waiting times by implementing the IRU TIR-Electronic Pre Declaration risk management system (IRU TIR-EPD), together with dedicated TIR-EPD Green Lanes at the main border-crossing points.
- Facilitate regional trade through the implementation of regional permit systems, such as the BSEC Permit for Trucks.

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