

OPENING REMARKS

Joint IRU – AsMAP UA International Road Transport Conference

“ROAD TRANSPORT – PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS”

Yalta, 5 September 2013

*Mr Janusz Lachy
IRU President*

Dear Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to Yalta for the 14th IRU- AsMAP UA International Conference on road transport.

I am honoured to open this conference and I thank you very much for being here and accepting our invitation to share your experience and expertise and to find solutions to the problems facing the international road transport industry.

Many thanks as well to AsMAP UA and, in particular, to Mr Leonid Kostyuchenko, AsMAP UA's President, who created this conference 14 years ago and has never broken this excellent tradition to gather road transport professionals from Eurasian countries in Yalta every September.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to greet the following honourable guests:

Mr Vitaly Nakhlyupin, Verkhovna Rada of Autonomous Republic of Crimea

Mr Vladimir Kozak, Minister of Infrastructure, Ukraine

Mr Ivan Vankhanen, Chairman of Republic Committee on Transport and Communications, Autonomous Republic of Crimea

Mr Dmitry Lamskoy, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

The environment in which the international road transport industry operates is constantly changing and, as such, every year brings new challenges, which can be construed as new opportunities at the same time.

The 7th IRU Euro-Asian Transport Conference took place in June this year in Amman, where the vital role played by international road transport in driving progress, prosperity and ultimately peace everywhere was recognised and confirmed. The IRU was particularly pleased to count amongst the participants of this conference a very large Ukrainian Delegation, headed by Leonid Kostyuchenko.

The conference was a great success and demonstrated once again that the IRU has a truly global vision and acts effectively at international, regional and national levels through its unique network of national Member Associations, such as AsMAP UA, on the 5 continents by "working together for a better future."

The decisions taken by the participants of the conference in Amman serve as guidelines to further develop Euro-Asian road transport. I would like to highlight the most important recommendations which include:

To increase the efficiency, professionalism, safety and sustainability of international road transport by implementing the most innovative road transport technologies and techniques;

To establish sustainable business partnerships and networks to better meet the demands of growing international trade and thus the demand for international road transport between the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Africa;

To continue to work in a public-private partnership with competent authorities and strictly comply at all times with applicable national laws and provisions of all relevant multilateral trade and road transport facilitation conventions, which are crucial for the road transport industry.

Dear friends,

The agenda of the Yalta Conference is tailored to discuss what should be done to meet the objectives outlined in the Amman Declaration.

The IRU's mission is to facilitate trade and international road transport, and drive sustainable development worldwide. Therefore, in the framework of this conference, we will speak about the implementation of international instruments on facilitation of trade and international road transport, which make road transport operations more effective and competitive, since any penalty on road transport is an even greater penalty on the economy as a whole.

Regrettably, in some countries, there are attempts to impose special taxes, duties and unfavourable terms on international road transport, which result from lobbying efforts to limit road transport operations and make them less effective. We have to face this challenge and understand the consequences these punitive measures could have for road transport operations and oppose them where necessary.

In this regard, we will of course discuss the current situation on the implementation of the TIR Convention in Russia in the framework of the conference. As you may be aware, the IRU has held high-level discussions with the Russian authorities and other relevant stakeholders to urge the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation to withdraw its unilateral and illegitimate decision to no longer accept TIR guarantees on the territory of the Russian Federation. You will be informed of the latest developments relating to this situation in the course of this event.

We will also discuss the multilateral ECMT Quota System, which is a most important issue for international road transport. We will pay great attention to this issue, because we are confident that the ECMT Quota is and remains the symbol of high-quality international road transport.

In this connection, I would like to inform you that the IRU Liaison Committee to Eurasia (CLEA) intends to commission a study on bilateral and multilateral systems for road transport. This research will be ready in 2014 and we will use its findings in debates on the ECMT Quota System. IRU Member Associations will have to play an even more active role in our lobbying efforts to achieve the results needed with regards to this issue. They must be more actively involved in the required ECMT Quota reform and in the process of distributing the ECMT permits at national level.

China's accession to the TIR System has been one of IRU's priorities for a few years. Therefore, we are delighted with the decision of Chinese Customs to adhere to the TIR Convention in the near future. We are equally very hopeful that with this development, the SCO Agreement on facilitation of road transport in the SCO region will be signed in

the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit that will take place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on 13 September 2013.

This will significantly change the state of affairs for international road transport not only in the SCO region, but also for trade and road transport between Europe and Asia. New markets will open up to international road transport that has already proved its capability to transport goods from Europe to Asia, interconnecting businesses along the way to the main world markets.

During this Conference, we will honour the winners of the IRU International Contest "Best Eurasian International Road Transport Operator".

I know that it is not easy to win this contest. In fact, road transport and, in particular, international road transport has become the most regulated transport mode. Hence, establishing and managing a successful road transport company is becoming increasingly difficult due to the multitude of regulations with which all transport companies need to comply regarding their trucks, drivers, road traffic, loads and customs.

Therefore, I will be delighted to see the winners of the contest on this podium.

I am looking forward to a very successful and productive Conference and count on your active participation as this is your conference.

Thank you for your attention.

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