

## **International Seminar on trade and transport facilitation through digitalisation**

Co-organised by IRU, BSEC-URTA, UNECE

Hosted by the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan

Baku, Azerbaijan, 5 September 2018

### **Summary of Seminar outcomes**

The outcomes of the Seminar attended by 65 participants including customs authorities, associations and donors, were:

- The digital revolution is here. We recognise that it is imperative that all levels of the road transport industry promote it and that all seminar participants are digital transport ambassadors.
- Iran, Turkey and Georgia are pioneers in the use of digital TIR. They have illustrated the benefits and now they will drive further implementation of the system for others.
- The corridors approach to promoting trade is the most pragmatic, with next steps for digital transport echoing this process, whereby neighbouring countries adopt the system to activate fully digital trade corridors.
- The intermodal transport of containers with digital TIR (foreseen in 1975 Convention) has been historically slowed down due to the requirement for paper carnets. Therefore the switch to digital will drive the intermodal use of the system.
- The immediate adoption of Annex 11 to the TIR Convention is a high priority. The digital transport ambassadors present at the Seminar must clearly voice their support for Annex 11 at UNECE. As AC2 Chair, WP.30, UNECE Secretariat all depend on the will of Contracting Parties: we need to hear the supportive majority.
- Moving forward, the process of adoption of this Annex should be complemented by the roll-out of projects and digital operations in parallel that will reinforce the benefits and will underpin efforts to establish a legal framework for digital TIR by illustrating how the system works in practice.
- eTIR and e-CMR – as next generation digital tools – are welcome but they only part of this effort. All trade facilitation tools need to be digitalised.
- We have no excuse to delay digitalisation. Assistance is available for those who need it from UNECE, IRU and donors.