

G4114

Istanbul, 5 November 2014

26th MEETING OF THE BSEC-URTA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BSEC Headquarters
Istanbul, Turkey
Friday, 28 November 2014, at 13:30 hrs

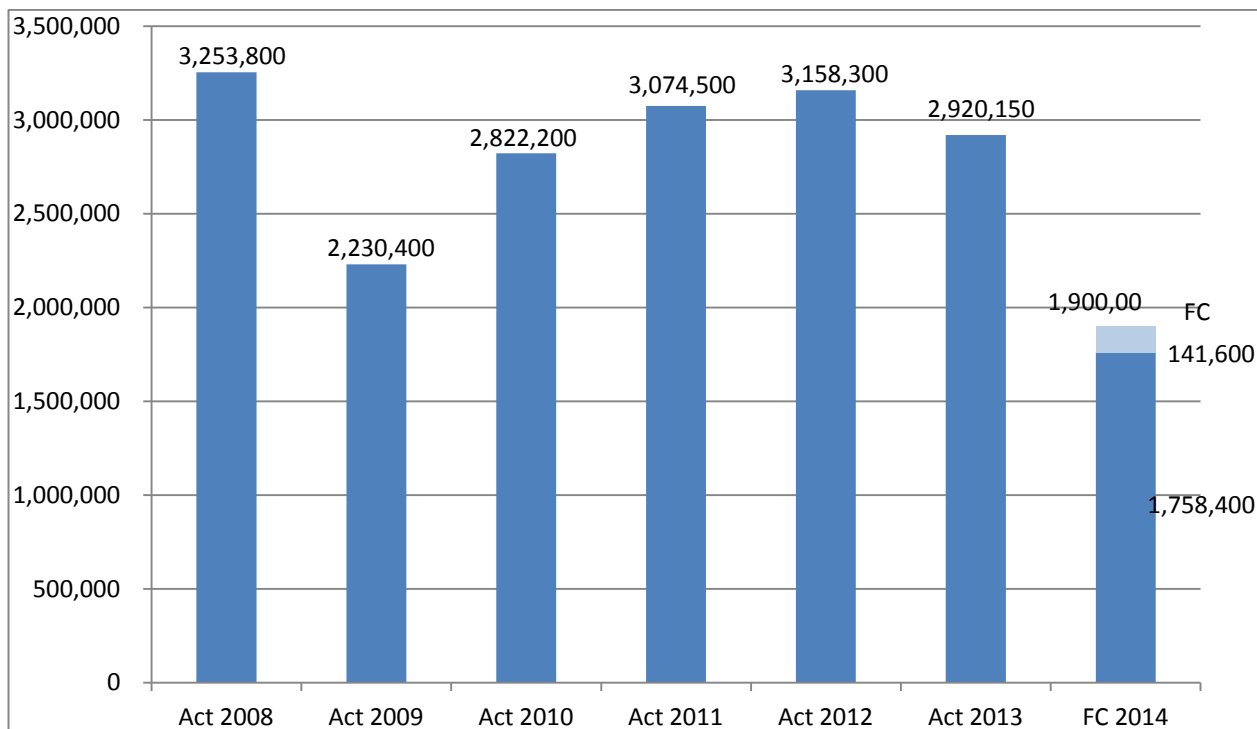
STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TIR CONVENTION IN THE BSEC REGION

During their last sessions in the beginning of October 2014, the UN TIR Bodies have reconfirmed that actions taken by the Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation (FCS-RF) are in breach of the TIR Convention, and requested the Russian Federation to abandon its restrictive measures.

The IRU Secretariat has intensified direct consultations with key Russian authorities. During the IRU missions in Moscow over second half 2014, various Ministries accepted meeting the IRU to discuss the situation openly, in particular the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Federal Anti-Monopoly Service and, of course, the Ministry of Transport. The IRU is engaged in particularly intense contact with the Ministry of Transport to ensure that the tender procedure undertaken by the Russian Government is in line with the TIR Convention. All of the Ministries have confirmed their support of the TIR Convention and to the smooth continuation of the TIR System.

Despite all these efforts the developments in the functioning of the TIR system show a continuous deterioration:

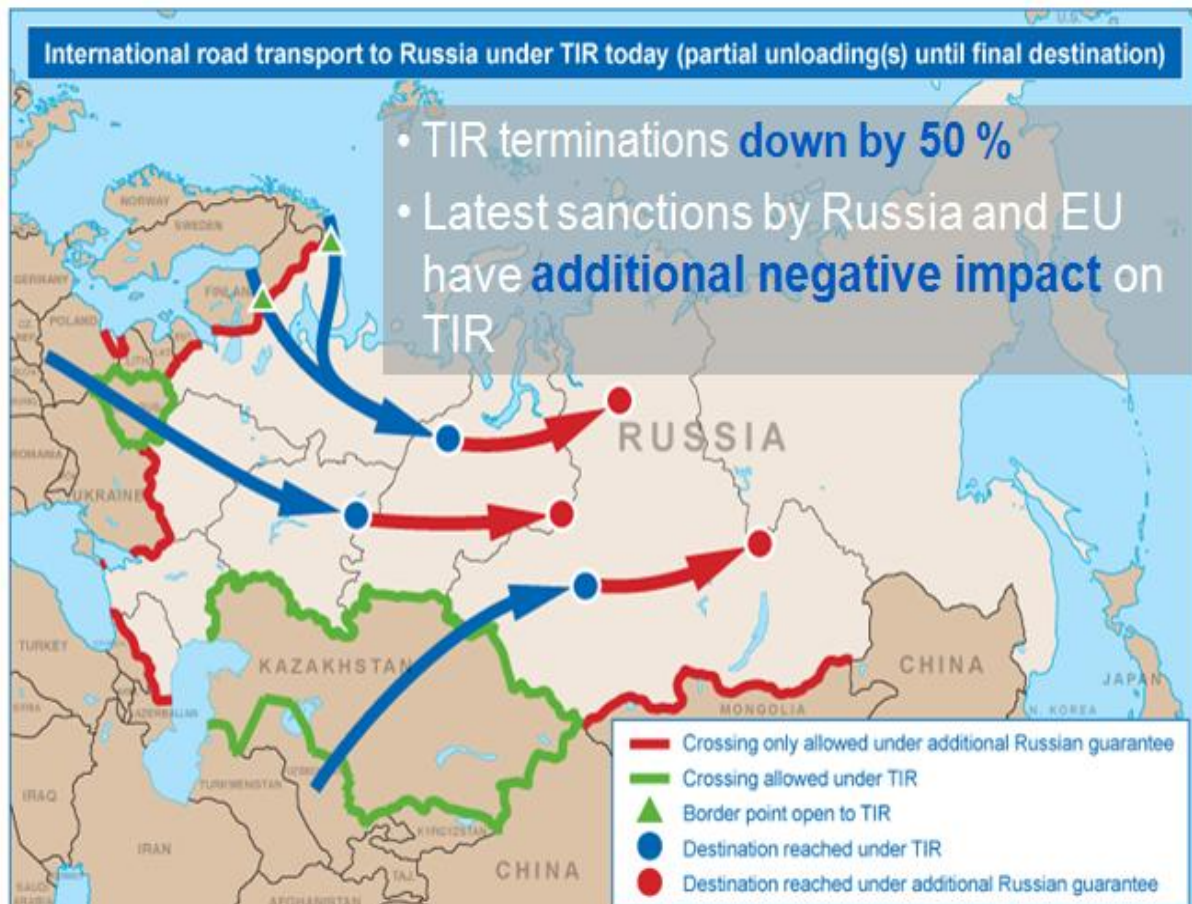
It is expected a **35.0%** decline in IRU globally issuance of TIR carnets at end of 2014.



As far as the BSEC region is concerned the TIR figures show a decrease of 33%

BSEC countries	Volume Oct, 2014	Volume Oct, 2013	Growth %
Albania	1,136	857	33%
Georgia	6,140	6,877	-11%
Serbia	19,602	23,434	-16%
Romania	35,518	43,047	-17%
Moldova	46,645	57,830	-19%
Bulgaria	102,048	134,196	-24%
Turkey	325,110	428,028	-24%
Greece	4,117	5,858	-30%
Russia	263,723	414,195	-36%
Ukraine	148,680	294,492	-50%
Azerbaijan	3,285	8,498	-61%
Armenia	116	2,038	-94%

The utilization of the TIR transit system on the territory of the Russian Federation is according to the below drawing:



In order to stabilise the situation in the international road transport market, IRU and ASMAP have proposed the Russian authorities the signing of a new guarantee agreement with the FCS of Russia in conformity with FCS requirements for securing the liability of the national guaranteeing Association and reinstating, in full, the application of the TIR Convention on the territory of the Russian Federation.

At the same time there are encouraging developments in the last period such as:

- a Decision of the Arbitration Court of Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation which recognizes as **illegal** actions of Vyborg Customs to refuse the release of goods in accordance with the TIR Customs Transit Procedure by entering a corresponding record on the TIR Carnet (“denied in release, by reason of absence of necessary measures to ensure compliance with customs transit”) and to request the provision of additional security measures for customs payments under paragraph 1, article 217 of the Customs Code of the Customs Union.
- an Order from the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia to the Federal Customs Service and the Ministry of Transport to:
 - Finalize as soon as possible the tender procedure to establish the TIR association in line with Russian law and the TIR Convention;
 - Ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the TIR Convention on the Russian territory until the tender is completed.

For the next period, IRU considers to undertake the following steps:

- Continue to push the FCS RF to implement an intermediary solution reinstating TIR
- Maintain close contacts with Ministry of Transport and other Russian Ministries in particular the Ministry of Economy
- Have the Russian business community to increase pressure on the Russian Government by highlighting losses to the Russian economy inflicted by FCS measures
- Intensify contact with Customs authorities of neighbouring countries, notably in the Eurasian Customs Union, for the implementation of new projects demonstrating the superior security and attractiveness of the TIR System
- Work together with the Eurasian Economic Commission to ensure that any future transit system of the Customs Union is in line with the TIR Convention
- Continue to assist Members through the reimbursement of refused Carnets and appropriate legal assistance

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