



RESOLUTION
of the 18th International Conference
“International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”

We the delegates of the 18th International Conference “International Road Transport: Problems, Solutions, Prospects”, held on 6-7 September 2017 in Odessa, Ukraine,

fully aware of the fundamental changes in transport and logistics sectors in the context of the growing fourth industrial revolution, achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), outcomes of the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport, convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 26-27 November 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and of the Ministerial Resolution on “Embracing the new era for sustainable inland transport and mobility”, adopted at the 79th session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (21 February 2017);

stressing an important role of the road transport in achieving SDGs, promoting sustainable transport and cargo mobility, as well as effective and reliable trade and transport links;

welcoming the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in February 2017, geographical expansion of key UN international agreements and conventions, facilitating trade, transport and transit, namely, the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975), with recent accession of Pakistan, China, India and others;

committed to the implementation of the UN Resolution 70/197, Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors (on 22 December 2015), through gradual development of interregional transport links between Western, Central and Eastern Europe, the Black Sea region, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific area, in particular the transport corridors of Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA), and the GUAM Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development, connecting with the Trans-European transport network (TEN-T);

promoting the full use of Information Communication Technologies in international road transport, with particular emphasis on the computerisation of procedures, established under the UN agreements and conventions, namely, the implementation of e-CMR, the digital consignment note, and eTIR, the new generation of the global customs transit system;

emphasising the creation of favourable conditions for fleets renewal that meet high ecological standards and safety requirements, thus contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as the UN Resolution 70/260, Improving global road safety (on 15 April 2016);

taking into account the need for the ongoing harmonisation of criteria and requirements referred to by international road transport operators when accessing the market of transport services, as well as increasing the scope of multilateral permit systems;

fully supporting the consistency in building professional excellence of drivers and managers in road transport companies,

hereby address national governments, international organisations and all stakeholders concerned by the development of sustainable road transport, and recommend to

- further update national legislation to comply with the international provisions and standards contained in UN conventions and agreements, as well as in the Trade Facilitation Agreement, providing seamless cross-border transport and transit;
- implement and promote the use of technological innovations in road transport, in particular by encouraging the transition to the digitalisation of transport documents, first of all in international transport;
- apply the new ones and further promote the existing TIR tools – iCarnet (a guarantee for customs transit between customs authorities of the same country), TIR+ (increased guarantee under TIR), eTIR (electronic TIR procedure), engaging subcontractors under the TIR procedure, launching intermodal pilots under cover of TIR Carnets, TIR-EPD (TIR Electronic Pre-Declaration);

- take steps for signing new bilateral and multilateral agreements on international road transport with the People's Republic of China and other countries in Asia and Middle East that shall provide access for foreign transport operators to Chinese and Asian countries freight cargo, and geographical expansion of international road transport in new directions;
- join new eTIR pilots, aimed at paperless TIR and run by IRU together with the UNECE, as well as launch a fully electronic procedure on transport corridors of TRACECA and GUAM, connecting Ukraine with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan;
- accede to the electronic consignment note (e-CMR) Protocol of the UN's Convention on transporting cargo by road, the CMR, and put it into practice of international road transport operations;
- amend bilateral intergovernmental agreements on international road transport, by removing transit and bilateral permits for the transport of goods, increasing the scope of multilateral permit systems;
- further promote high-quality and safe infrastructure along the international transport and transit corridors, particularly TRACECA, GUAM and the Black Sea Ring Highway corridors, connecting the Trans-European transport network (TEN-T) with the Asian Highway network;
- create conditions for fair competition and transparent access to the market of transport services, by updating national legislation to comply with the provisions provided by the Quality Charter for International Road Haulage Operations under the ECMT Multilateral Quota System;
- promote energy-efficient and innovative fleets that meet high ecological standards, using the instruments of operational and financial leasing;
- promote relevant training programmes for professional drivers aimed at reducing accident rates and the severity of injuries;
- apply IRU Academy standards recognised by the ECMT Quality Charter as a key benchmark that fully meets the requirements for professional qualifications of drivers and managers of transport companies.

Odessa, Ukraine, 7 September 2017