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Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party:

EurAsEC Customs Union

Mandatory prior submission of electronic information to the customs bodies of the Customs Union

Transmitted by the delegation of the Russian Federation*

I. General requirements

1. In accordance with decision No. 899 of 9 December 2011 of the EurAsEC Customs Union Commission, as from 17 June 2012 it will be mandatory to provide the customs bodies with advance electronic information on goods carried by road in the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan, the member States of the Customs Union.
2. It is the carrier who is responsible for the prior submission of the electronic information.
3. The advance information must be submitted to the customs bodies of the State in the Customs Union where the border crossing is located two hours before arrival of the vehicle. In such cases the submission of an electronic copy of the TIR transit document is not required at the border crossing.
4. The customs officer at the border crossing must decide whether to allow the crossing in accordance with the customs transit procedure *no later than two hours* after the registration of the submitted documentation, provided the advance information corresponds with the documentation presented by the driver and there is no risk of non-compliance with the laws of the Customs Union.

* In accordance with the instructions of the Working Party, this document reproduces informal document INF.9 (2012), previously submitted by the delegation of the Russian Federation.

5. If no advance information is submitted prior to the arrival of the vehicle at the border crossing, the information on the goods and the vehicles must be electronically entered in the customs information system within the next two hours. In such cases, the information submitted is not considered as advance information, and the regulations in respect of times for the passage of goods are not applicable under the customs transit procedure.

6. The carriers or their agents may submit advance information electronically to the customs bodies by means of free-of-charge web-based applications.

II. IRU TIR-EPD application (TIR procedure only)

7. This application has been available for the advance submission of information to customs bodies since November 2011 in Belarus, and since March 2012 in the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

8. There are plans to link it with the customs information system of Kazakhstan.

9. Access to the application is granted upon request by the Association of International Road Transport Carriers to carriers holding TIR carnets.

10. The TIR-EPD application can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.tirepd.org>.

11. Instructions for the application's use are available on the site of the Association and on the IRU site: www.iru.org/index/en_iru_tir_epd.

12. The opening page, <http://www.tirepd.org>, includes a button to send e-mails to Russian-speaking IRU specialists (under "Contact us/Обратиться в МСАТ"), thus providing technical support.

13. The "Help" function in Russian provides practical recommendations for the use of the application.

III. Russian Federal Customs Service portal for electronic submission of information

14. The portal for electronic submission of information of the Russian Federal Customs Service can be used for the prior submission of information to the *customs bodies of the Russian Federation only*.

15. To work on the portal, users must register and set up a personal account.

16. Access to the portal and instructions for its use are available on the official site of the Russian Federal Customs Service, at edata.customs.ru/Pages/Default.aspx.

17. Technical support is available through the phone numbers under the "Notices" ("Объявления") section, on the first page of the portal site.

IV. Working with Internet applications

18. The IRU TIR-EPD Internet application and the Russian Federal Customs Service Internet portal for electronic submission of information are free of charge and require no specialized knowledge or special equipment. They are available to any Internet user.

19. In addition to carriers, any operator with access to the Internet, including forwarding agents, consignors and consignees, can submit advance electronic TIR information further to a carrier's instructions.

20. In practical terms, filling in a typical electronic TIR declaration on the basis of a template from earlier declarations takes from 2 to 10 minutes.

21. TIR declarations previously filled in by an operator are accessible in the application's archive.

V. Procedure

22. *Operators* providing advance information must:

- Be in receipt of the transport documents or copies thereof
- Prepare and send an electronic TIR declaration to the information system of the customs body of the State where the transit authorization is to be issued
- Receive a registration number for the electronic TIR declaration
- Provide the driver with a printout of the electronic TIR declaration registered by the information system of the customs body and/or its registration number

23. Together with the transport documents, *drivers* must present the customs body with the printout of the electronic TIR declaration and/or its registration number.

24. After checking the documents submitted by the driver and the information in the advance electronic information, *customs inspectors* issue authorizations for transit.

VI. Advantages of the use of web-based applications

25. Use of the web-based applications allows carriers to:

- Dispense with the use of the paid services of customs brokers
 - Reduce the time required for clearance at border crossings
 - Shorten waiting times at the border
 - Meet the legal requirements of the country of entry
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