Main border crossing facilitation conventions

Artur Bouten UNECE Sustainable Transport Division



Overview



- TIR Convention, 1975 and eTIR;
- Container Convention, 1972;
- Temporary Importation Convention for Private (1954) and Commercial (1956) vehicles;
- Harmonization Convention, 1982;



TIR Convention, 1975

- Establishes and regulates the only existing and operational global customs transit system
- Border crossing facilitation through an internationally recognized and harmonized procedure with a single internationally valid customs document and guarantee
- Effective revenue protection and security without excessive administrative burden for customs and time/cost losses for operators
- Administered under ECE auspices
- 76 contracting parties from 4 continents, among which Pakistan, China and India. Argentina, Oman and Saudi-Arabia recently acceded
- TIR system operational in 62 countries

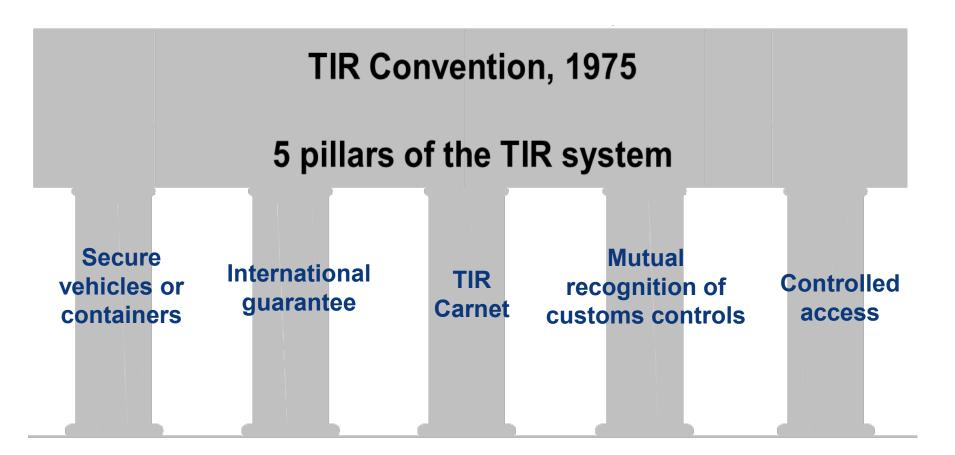


Geographical scope of the TIR Convention





The 5 pillars of the TIR system



The eTIR project: from theory to practice

 Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) (2003-..)



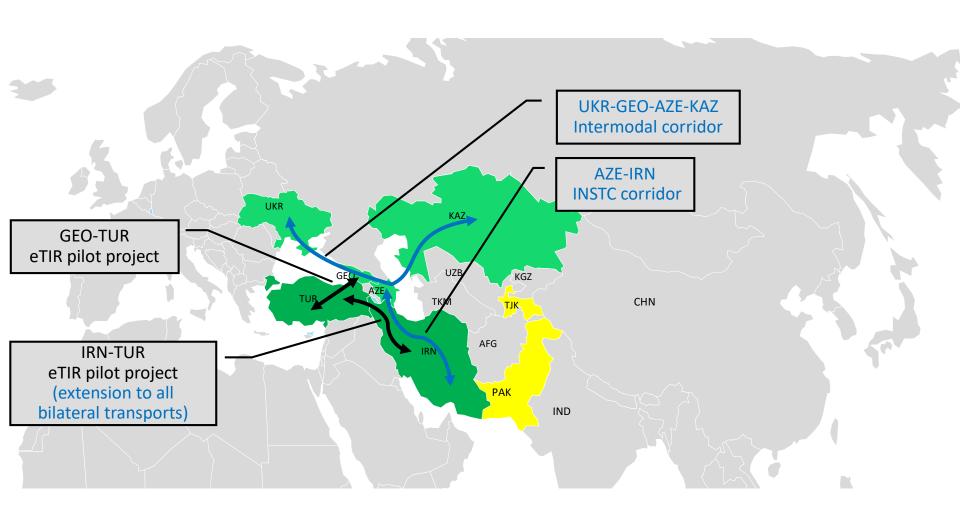
eTIR specifications v.4.2

(conceptual, functional and technical)

- eTIR (pilot) projects
 - Georgia -Turkey
 - Iran -Turkey
 - Azerbaijan Iran
 - ...
- Group of Experts on Legal Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.2) (2015-2017)
 - Optional Annex 11 to the TIR Convention (under discussion at AC.2)



eTIR (pilot) projects





Customs Container Convention, 1972



Objective

 To facilitate the temporary admission in a country of containers registered in another country by deferring payment of taxes and duties

• Benefits

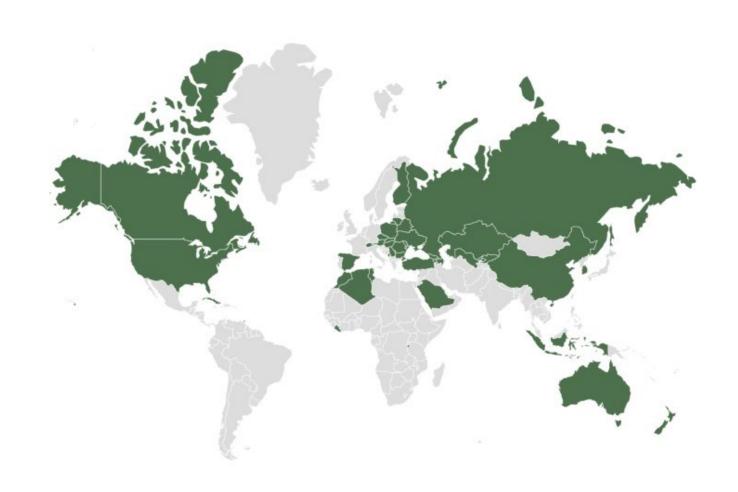
- Minimum border procedures, deferred payment of Customs taxes and duties
- Recovery of customs duties if no re-export, based on an undertaking by the container owner (no deposit of a guarantee required.

Managed by the World Customs Organization.

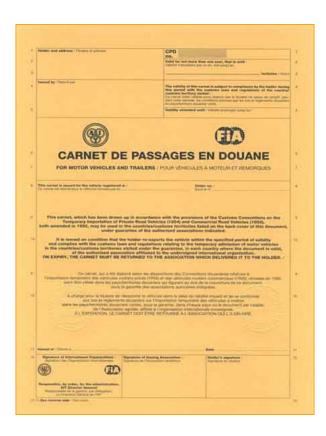


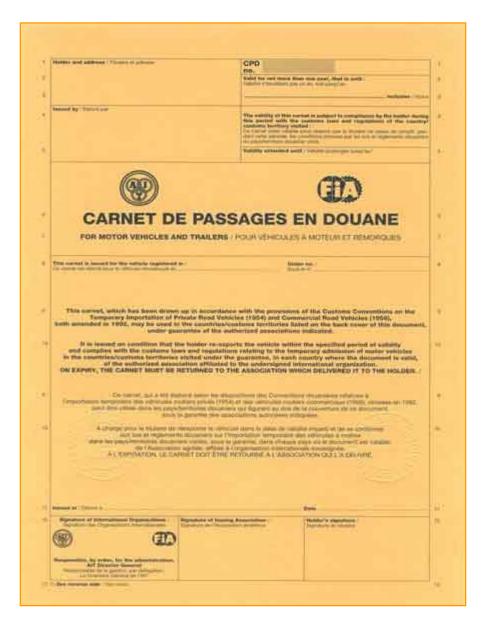
Container Convention, 1972

40 Contracting Parties



The Customs Convention on the temporary importation of Private (1954) /Commercial (1956) road vehicles







CPDs facilitate travel

Carnets de Passages en Douane (CPD) facilitate the temporary admission of road motor vehicles by providing security for the payment of any customs duties and import taxes chargeable should the vehicles not be re-exported.

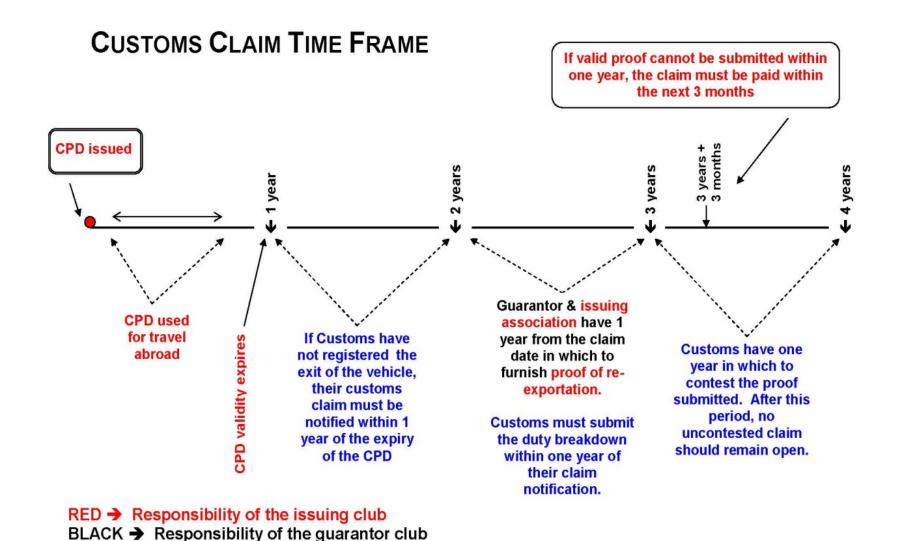
AIT: Alliance international de tourism

FIA: Fédération Internationale de de

l'Automobile

The customs convention on the temporary importation of Commercial road vehicles of 1956





BLUE → Responsibility of the Customs



Conclusion:

- For Tourism and trade temporary admission of private and commercial motor vehicles should best be free of formalities and guarantees
- If this is not possible, the CPD can give advantages to customs/tourists and trade
 - Advantages customs: no need for cash deposits and reimbursements formalities, no need to create a national document
 - For tourism and trade: CPD ease the border crossing procedures and eliminates the need for cash guarantees

Harmonization Convention, 1982



- International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods
- 58 Contracting Parties
- Latest accessions: Iran,
 Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
- Expressed interest to join:
 Pakistan





To facilitate cross border transport of goods through nationally coordinated, internationally harmonized, shorter, reduced formalities and controls of goods at borders

It covers:

- All goods moved across borders (exported, imported or in transit)
- All control services
- All modes of transport
- Specific provisions for certain transport modes and goods
- Also addresses certain issues with regard to vehicles and drivers



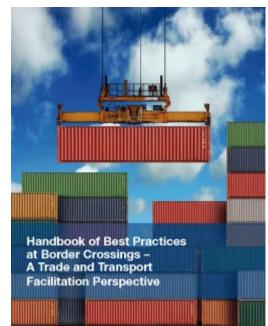
General principles vs. detailed provisions

- Framework providing for a high degree of flexibility in organizing national and international cooperation
- No universal 'one size fits all' solution
- Examples of best practices are essential
- Integrated operational annexes on various aspects, such as harmonization of customs controls, medico-sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary or medico-sanitary controls, road transport and rail transport
- Specific Annex 8 for road transport and Annex 9 for rail transport.



Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings

- Reference material and more than 120 best practice examples at border crossings.
- It covers available legal instruments, inter-agency and international co-operation, balancing security and facilitation measures, processing of freight, risk management, design of border crossing points, use of ICT technologies, human resource management and benchmarking.
- Available at:http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/bcf/publicati ons/OSCE-UNECE_Handbook.pdf









Thank you

Artur Bouten
UNECE
Sustainable Transport Division

8-14, Avenue de la Paix CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 917 2433

Fax: +41 22 917 0614

Email: artur.bouten@un.org