MCAT (IRU) and the European Economic Commission of the United Nations (UNECE) signed on October 6, 2017 agreements on the digitalisation of the customs transit procedure under the TIR Convention, to boost international transport and trade by improving the efficiency and security of customs procedures through enhanced data management.

The full digitalisation of the TIR customs transit procedure will be supported by a Memorandum of Understanding to further strengthen cooperation between UNECE and IRU. Outlining the launch of new digital TIR pilot projects to encompass further countries, the Memorandum also establishes a series of yearly action plans to define next steps.

UNECE Executive Secretary Olga Algayerova welcomed the MoU, stating that “The computerisation of the TIR system will enhance the speed, efficiency and transparency of the TIR customs transit procedure. Increasing interest in the TIR Convention means more and more countries will benefit from these improvements. Through this MoU, UNECE and IRU reaffirm their commitment to a common vision for the long term sustainability of the TIR system”.

Secretary General of IRU, Umberto de Pretto, commented: “We look forward to a strengthened partnership with UNECE on expanding and upgrading the TIR system to improve trade and spur economic growth, with further eTIR pilot projects and regular coordination on the use of digital transport, customs and transit tools.”

For 2018, the objectives include: enabling any interested customs administrations to join a new digital project; the launch of the second pilot project; and the introduction of full IRU/UNECE system synchronisation with mirrored databases.

Retrieved and compiled from IRU WWeb-site news. Original source: https://www.iru.org/resources/newsroom/agreements-tir-digitalisation-signed-un