

Regional Seminar on TIR Convention

Istanbul, 11-12 February 2010

ITALIAN PRESENTATION

Dear Ambassadors, His Excellency Director General, Ladies and Gentleman and dear Colleagues,

I have the pleasure to thank you on behalf of the Italian Customs Agency and of its Director, Mr Peleggi, who cannot participate in this seminar do to other institutional engagements.

The twinning project involving the Turkish and Italian Administrations, aimed at achieving the objectives laid down in the Association Agreement between the European Union and Turkey, establishes specific assistance and training actions targeted to adapt legislations, rules and customs procedures, with a particular focus on the implementation of the NCTS transit regime, including some procedures concerning the 1975 TIR Convention.

Such Convention entered into force in 1978, and since then it has been the most efficient International Convention on transport. At present it is the only universal customs transit regime existing, having helped, both directly and indirectly, to facilitate international transports, above all road transports, not only in Europe and Middle East, but also in other geographic areas such as Africa and Latin America.

The primary objective of the Convention is to combine security and protection of National economies, upon which the controls carried out by Customs authorities are based, with speed and reduction of costs of trade flows.

As to the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS), as we know this project concerns common and Community transit and aims at unifying and simplifying transit procedures in the Member States of the European Union, in the EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, forming a Customs union with Liechtenstein)

- facilitating the movement of goods;
- preventing and combating frauds.

There are 26 countries involved in the project and it will enable the connection of 3000 Customs offices, where paperwork will be entirely replaced by computerized procedures.

Advantages for operators

The System offers various advantages to operators, e.g.

- Real time discharge of the transit procedure, since the return by mail of the paper copy No.5 of the SAD is replaced by an e-mail message; this allows the immediate release of the guarantee, which offers a great advantage to operators;
- A higher quality of the service;
- Reduction in the time spent by operators at destination offices, since the shipping notice is now sent to the destination office when the goods are shipped;
- Higher flexibility in lodging declarations;
- Reduction in costs and delays due to paper-based declaration of the goods (complicated, time-consuming and wasteful procedures);
- Greater transparency of the transit procedure;
- Higher efficiency of customs operations in general, since customs offices are able to plan risk analysis on arriving goods on time;
 - Electronic traceability of the shipment.

With Commission Regulation n. 1192/2008 of 17 November 2008, emending Reg. (EEC) n. 2454/93, **starting from the 1° January 2009 the NCTS/TIR project**

entered into force, imposing the electronic management of all TIR operations in the Customs territory of the European Union.

The NCTS/TIR (New Computerized Transit System / Transport International Routiers) project, based upon NCTS project, carries out the electronic tracking and the automated control of TIR shipments crossing the EU territory.

As for transit operations within NCTS, also for shipments accompanied by a TIR carnet, the MRN (Movement Reference Number) Community identification is needed; it is given when shipping the goods from the Community office of departure or the entry office into the European Union territory.

So, starting from 1^o January 2009, the customs office of departure and the entry customs office must receive electronically all TIR carnets' data.

The activities carried out in Istanbul by Italian experts with their Turkish colleague focused on some problems in the application of TIR regime: in particular the customs procedures concerning border crossing and completion of TIR regime.

Also the visit of Turkish officials in July 2009 in the Italian Regional Directorate of Tuscany, organized within the actions foreseen by this twinning project Turkey-Italy on the new computerized transit system – NCTS, made it possible to show the AIDA system and the national application of NCTS, and to analyze in depth the authorized recipient/shipper actors, the movement of excisable goods, the system of securities and of shipments by sea, and the TIR and standard transit procedures also through visits in the operational location of the main Tuscan operators.

Thus, the ongoing twinning action and the excellent relationships with the Turkish administration allowed us to promote and organize this regional seminar here in Istanbul, with the aim of identifying and discussing the main technical issues, in order to find common solutions enabling us to perform efficient controls and to ensure, at the same time, the free flow of trade.

The Italian Customs Agency believes that it is essential to compare the policies implemented and the experiences gained by the Customs Administration in several

fields, always bearing in mind objectives and general strategies of NCTS that, as we know, are an integral part of Community systems for the automation of customs procedures.

The Italian Agency has a long and strong expertise in the joint management of the two regimes, also through the use of the AIDA system that has been using NCTS since 2003.

In this regard, I confirm, also on behalf of our Director, that the Italian Customs Agency is willing to cooperate with any Administration, in the frame work of bilateral, Community or multilateral activities.

Before ending my presentation, please let me thank the Turkish authorities for the continuous assistance provided to the Italian officials during their missions in Istanbul and for the excellent hospitality shown in this occasion. I also want to thank the European Commission and IRU that made it possible to organize this seminar, and Italian Embassy that, similarly to the twinning actions, supported the Italian Customs Agency in a very precious way also for this initiative.