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EuroMed Transport
SUPPORT PROJECT

PRESS RELEASE

Beirut, 10 April 2019

Lebanon confirms interest in promoting cross border transport facilitation through implementation of the TIR Convention

The EU funded EuroMed Transport Support Project, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Lebanon, organized a National Workshop on the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) and on the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (The Harmonization Convention), in Beirut on 9 - 10 April 2019. The Workshop aimed at presenting the objectives, main provisions and benefits of both Conventions and promoting their implementation.

The event was opened by Mr. Abdel Hafeez Kaissi, Director General of the Land and Maritime Transport Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Lebanon, and Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, Team Leader and Road Freight Transport Key Expert of the EuroMed Transport Support Project (EuroMed TSP), with the participation of more than 40 representatives of key stakeholders from the Public and Private Sectors. "Transport facilitation of goods, exported and imported, is a key issue for our economy", Mr. Kaissi said, "Lebanon is interested in exploring possibilities for better utilization of the TIR by Lebanese transporters and taking necessary measures in addressing existing challenges for boosting its exports, in view of the very special situation in its neighborhood".

Among the distinguished speakers were Mr. Andre Sceia, TIR Secretariat, Sustainable Transport Division, of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Dr. Yarob Badr, of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Mr. Rani Wehbe, Senior Adviser for the Middle East, International Road Transport Union, IRU and Mr. Rami Karout, International Road Transport Union, IRU.

The TIR Convention, sets up the international Customs Transit procedure that permits the seamless international transport of goods by road without undergoing the usual customs procedures or the need to make a financial deposit at each border. Hosted by UNECE, it has now 76 Contracting Parties covering the whole of Europe, and reaches out to Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. The Harmonization Convention is a framework Convention that facilitates international border crossing for transported goods through harmonization and reduction of administrative formalities, and through measures that include joint controls and provision of shared facilities, same opening hours and same types of services at shared borders. The Harmonization Convention has now 58 Contracting Parties. Lebanon is Contracting Party to the TIR since 1997, while it has not as yet acceded to the Harmonization.

The EuroMed TSP, being implemented from 2017 to 2022, aims at providing technical assistance to Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries in support of the implementation of the Southern Mediterranean Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) 2014-2020 for the creation of a harmonized, integrated and sustainable transport network in the region.



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http://etsp.eu/?tribe_events=lebanon-workshop-on-tir-and-harmonization-conventions-beirut-9-10-04-2019

