

CIRCULAR LETTER Nr. 1725/02.10.2017

To the attention of Romanian International Road Transport Association (ARTRI)'s members

Distinguished Members,

You have probably recently received an anonymous email titled "*Message from IRU to Romanian and Moldovan transport operators*", in relation to which we have to make the following clarifications:

1. ARTRI is the national guaranteeing association for the application of TIR Convention in Romania, being authorised in this respect by the Romanian Customs Authority.

ARTRI is also a reputed member of the International Road Transport Union Geneva (IRU), an organisation which legitimate interests were always supported and will continue to be defended by ARTRI, in the interest of the goods road transport hauliers.

2. The documented revelations of the former Deputy Secretary General of the IRU from April 2016, further confirmed even by the former management of the IRU, brought into attention of the IRU members a possible fraud of hundreds of million Euros inside this organisation.

The embezzled funds originated from the secret over taxation of the TIR Carnets' issuing and insurance costs, starting with 1995. These amounts, collected from the TIR Holders, were then periodically transferred towards foundations and various commercial entities including offshores, all controlled by a few IRU employees.

We specify that these offshore companies, with zero employees and without any connection with the international road transport activities, are interposed in operations voided of economic substance, being used in the "reinsurance scheme" and for "reserve funds" transfers.

3. Such fraudulent methods are damaging not only the IRU members TIR associations, but also each of you, as TIR Holders.

4. The statutory purpose of ARTRI is to sustain the road hauliers in organizing, developing, sustaining, promoting and defending all their specific activities and their legitimate interests. One of the objectives assumed by ARTRI is to represent the interests of its members and interests of the road transport industry towards the state authorities, public or private bodies and institutions, at national and international level.

5. This is why ARTRI made multiple demarches towards the IRU management for the clarification of these serious issues, **requesting the reimbursement of the amounts despoiled from ARTRI and its members through this scheme.** For this purpose, we requested the integral text of the TIR global and national insurance policies concluded by the IRU with AXA/Zurich, respectively with Lloyds' brokers (including the addendums detailing the financial flows), the contracts related to the payment of the profit commissions from TIR insurances and the court decisions in the IRU vs. AON file (AON being the former IRU insurance broker).

6. The lack of any clear answer from the IRU managing bodies to our legitimate requests left us no other choice than to successively address these questions to the TIR insurers, to the national and international competent authorities – including the UN TIR Convention managing bodies – and lastly to the judicial authorities, for the protection of our association's and our TIR Holders' legal rights.

The Romanian Customs authorities were also constantly informed on ARTRI's demarches.

7. The direct beneficiaries of this fraudulent management are a small group of employees, currently managing the IRU:

- Christian Siegrfried Labrot, President
- Umberto Junior DePretto, Secretary General
- Boris Guillaume Blanche, Chief Operating Officer
- Daniel Sculati, Head of TIR Insurance.

All these persons are currently subject of pending criminal investigations in Switzerland.

8. In March 2017, this group made an attempt to "buy the silence" of the IRU TIR associations through a humiliating agreement: the associations received the promise to be eventually reimbursed with roughly 1% from the embezzled funds, in exchange of their full waiver for any financial or legal claim towards any of the IRU representatives, the IRU or any of its structures. The failure of this illegal manoeuvre intensified the group's aggressions against the associations who dared to raise inconvenient questions, culminating with the recent threatening of ARTRI and AITA Moldova with their exclusion from the IRU, thus risking the suspension of the TIR Regime in all EU territory!

And all of these, in order to maintain the privileges and yearly salaries/allowances/commissions (coming also from the offshore transferred funds) of EUR millions, for a handful of IRU employees hidden behind lawyers and auditors - also paid with CHF millions from our organization's funds.

9. Representatives of the Romanian National Union of the Road Hauliers (UNTRR) – the other Romanian association affiliated to the IRU but not authorized to guarantee for the foreign TIR Holders - were officially approached since April 2016, in order to join ARTRI's demarches, yet without any positive result.

On the contrary, Mr. Radu Dinescu - Secretary General of the UNTRR and currently vice-President of the IRU - as a member of the IRU's Presidential Executive, not only approved certain decisions aimed to hide the reality of TIR funds' embezzlement, including towards UNTRR members, but also the decisions establishing tough measures against ARTRI.

10. Taking into the account all of the above, we are reconfirming that:

- ✓ ARTRI's activities are running normally. All TIR Carnets issued by our association are valid and covered by the EUR 100'000 guarantee, in accordance with the recently renewed authorization agreement signed with the Romanian General Directorate of Customs on 12.09.2017;
- ✓ By virtue of this agreement, ARTRI is the only National Guaranteeing Association for the application of TIR Regime in Romania. IRU has no legal competence in granting or revoking such authorization to/from a TIR guaranteeing association;
- ✓ Rest assured that we will continue to act as until now, using all the necessary legal means for having the responsible persons from the IRU being made accountable for their deeds;
- ✓ As members of ARTRI, we are counting of your full support, necessary for our demarches dedicated to recover the amounts diverted from you;
- ✓ As soon as the judiciary procedures will allow it, we will publish the full file of this fraud.

Nicolae Savu
President of the Board



Florinel Andrei
Secretary General

