



SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION,
SECRETARY-GENERAL

« 19 » June 2020

№ 02-03/ 838

Excellency,

The SCO Secretariat is closely following the development of the situation related to Covid 19 both in the Organization's area and in the world as a whole. I concur with your views on priorities during a pandemic - human security and protections are key conditions for overcoming this difficult situation. It is obvious that the threat of a "second wave" and the post-pandemic period challenges may pose more serious problems for the world community.

I also fully share your view about the importance of working together to maintain economic growth and transport sustainability in a spirit of solidarity to eliminate the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effects.

Expressing solidarity and support to IRU and to your personal efforts, I would like to inform you that the measures proposed in your letter dated May 4, 2020 have been sent to the relevant ministries and agencies of the SCO Member States. In this regard, and considering that all the SCO member states are Parties to the UN TIR Convention, and national professional associations of road carriers are members of the IRU and are members of the TIR system, I am pleased to announce that the said measures are mostly being implemented in the SCO Member States.

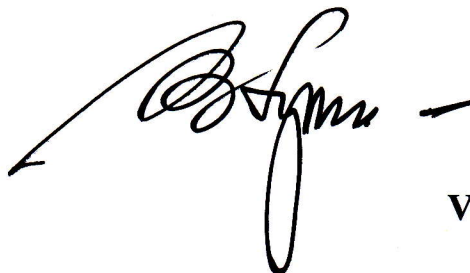
At an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the SCO Member States held on 13 May 2020 in the format of a videoconference, the heads of foreign affairs agencies stressed the importance of deepening international cooperation to overcome the social and trade and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Umberto de Pretto
Secretary General
International Road Transport Union
Geneva

I also note that Member States have initiated work to ensure the stable operation of transport in inter-country emergency situations. A relevant document is currently being prepared to ensure assistance to the efforts of transport agencies of the SCO Member States to save lives and preserve the health of citizens, as well as to ensure proportionate actions in transport support of national economies.

I believe that the steps taken jointly by the SCO member States and the IRU will make it possible not only to offset the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to bring to a new level the entire system of interaction in the automotive sphere between our organizations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Norov', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vladimir Norov