

Speech: AITA 30th Anniversary

Radu Dinescu, IRU President

Chisinau, 25 August 2022

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends from Moldova and from abroad,

It is an honour and a great pleasure to join you this evening at this gala dinner to celebrate a very special occasion: AITA's 30th anniversary.

Firstly, I would like to thank Mihail Usatîi, AITA's President for inviting me to be here with you in my capacity as IRU President.

Allow me to also pass on warm greetings and congratulations from IRU's Secretary General, Umberto de Pretto. He would have dearly loved to be here today but prior commitments mean that he cannot be with us.

Coming from a neighboring country I can confirm to you that Moldova is an important transport and trade hub.

Skirting the northern Black Sea region and touching the delta of the River Danube, this part of Europe has been a transport crossroads between east and west for many hundreds of years, if not thousands.

Moldovan roads have long seen trucks, buses and coaches, from near and far, moving people and goods to where they need to be.

After the long and eventful history that has played out on Moldovan roads, your country is today – unfortunately – once more caught up in a geopolitical crisis that is seriously impacting your country, its security, its economy, and its transport network.

Yesterday marked six months, to the day, that war began across Ukraine.

This war in Ukraine has changed many things – for you in Moldova and for all of us living and working across this region.

The road transport sector, including AITA and your members, responded to the crisis from day one.

We helped stranded drivers, supported humanitarian efforts for the millions of refugees who fled Ukraine, and kept driving essential goods, food and medicines into Ukraine.

To this day, our industry continues to do this invaluable work, including more recently, in the face of Black Sea port blockades, helping to get agricultural exports out of Ukraine to feed the wider world.

The war has led to numerous other challenges for the road transport sector in Moldova, as elsewhere, in particular with rapidly rising fuel prices.

Taken with our ongoing industry challenges – such as driver shortages, border crossing inefficiencies, digitalisation and decarbonisation – these are difficult times for road transport companies.

But the transport operators of Moldova are amongst the finest anywhere in our industry – and you are facing these challenges head on.

You, and your companies and your workers, are highly dedicated professionals. You are industry leaders well beyond your country's borders.

And for thirty years now, your voice, the voice of the road transport sector in Moldova, has been AITA.

AITA was established in 1992, and in the same year, you joined IRU and the global road transport family.

Through all these years, AITA has been committed to upholding the interests of Moldovan passenger and goods road transport operators at all levels – domestically, as well as internationally via an active and important presence in IRU's work.

One year later, in 1993, Moldova acceded to the TIR Convention, and AITA became the official TIR Carnet issuing association for the country.

AITA has demonstrated a highly valued commitment and contribution to the improvement, expansion and promotion of the TIR system in the years since it became the issuing association.

Now, as our industry looks beyond the pandemic, and – with hope – to a future beyond war in this region, road transport for people and goods will play an even more crucial role in nourishing and protecting our economies and communities.

Moldova's road transport sector – your drivers, workers, coaches and trucks, with the strong support of AITA – are all playing a crucial role in doing this.

Every multimodal transport of a passenger or a good travels – at some point of its journey – by road.

Without road transport, economies and societies simply stop functioning.

This is why AITA is an important voice – not only defending and supporting our industry here in Moldova, but in the wider region and internationally within IRU.

All of you in the AITA family can be justifiably proud of what you have achieved over the past three decades.

It is inspiring for all of us involved in road transport around the world.

We are proud to have you as member in IRU.

On behalf of the global road transport industry, thank you for 30 years of hard work, persistence and dedication.

And here's to continued success in the years to come.

Happy birthday AITA!

Thank you!