



JOINT STATEMENT

on the results of the Coordination Meeting between the Heads of International Organisations and Financial Institutions on the future development of Euro-Asian transport links

16 June 2011, Tbilisi, Georgia

Heads of International Governmental and Non-Governmental International Organisations, International Financial and Credit Institutions, and their appointed representatives, meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 16 June 2011,

RECOGNISING the considerable importance of reviving the Great Silk Road, and the role played by road transport in driving economic development, social stability, trade relations and regional economic cooperation between the states in the vast Euro-Asian region, in particular land-locked countries;

WILLING to contribute to the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, Almaty Action Program, UN SPECA Program, Baku Declaration of International Conference on the restoration of the historic Silk Route, Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe – Caucasus - Asia Corridor, programmes of the EU for the development of transport and decisions of international conferences and meetings conducted under the aegis of the UN to develop Euro-Asian transport links;

ASSESSING HIGHLY the results of the activities of international organisations to foster the development of Euro-Asian transport links, including the UN regional commissions for Europe (UNECE) and for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Intergovernmental Commission for the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Transport Corridor (TRACECA), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), Organisation for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), International Road Transport Union (IRU), and other international organisations;

MINDFUL of the significant contribution of the Joint UNECE-UNESCAP Project on the development of Euro-Asian transport links (2002-2011), with a view to its forthcoming completion in February 2012;

TAKING NOTE of the practical results of the IRU New Euro-Asian Land Transport Initiative Project (NELTI), which demonstrated that 40% of commercial road transport time is lost at borders;

OBSERVING that an immense contribution to the development of the transport infrastructure on Euro-Asian routes has already been made by International Financial Institutions, including the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), European Investment Bank (EIB), Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), and other credit and donor institutions;

EMPHASISING the imperative need to be even more effective and bring greater tangible results for citizens, in particular in land-locked countries, by better coordinating efforts of International Organisations and Financial Institutions in developing Euro-Asian transport links, carrying out infrastructural projects, promoting institutional reforms and facilitating frontier crossing;

RESOLVED TO:

1. approve the joint initiative by the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission and the IRU to arrange coordination meetings of Heads of International Organisations and International Financial Institutions, which are to be convened once every two years in parallel with the IRU Euro-Asian Road Transport Conferences and Meeting of European and Asian Transport Ministers;
2. increase the level of cooperation and coordination with the aim to work towards a higher level of efficiency and coherence in all aspects of development of Euro-Asian transport links and revival of the Great Silk Road;
3. to make joint efforts to promote Euro-Asian transport routes within the competence of several international organisations, each with their own independent programs and development plans in order to establish a more effective joint approach, to achieve a synergetic effect, and to avoid excessive expenditures and duplication in work;
4. focus political attention and investments on implementing key UN multilateral trade and transport facilitation instruments, such as the Harmonisation and TIR Conventions, as well as on developing auxiliary road side infrastructure;
5. cooperate in implementing new projects and initiatives proposed by International and Financial Institutions, including those with the participation of the private sector and national governments to develop Euro-Asian trade and road transport;
6. employ more extensively the leverage of the pool of International Financial and Credit Institutions to implement the projects aimed to develop Euro-Asian transport links;
7. create a group of experts composed of representatives of interested international organisations and international financial institutions, which should deal with the implementation of the present Joint Statement and other issues associated with coordinating development of Euro-Asian trade and road transport and to request the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission and the IRU to act as co-organisers of the said Group of Experts and to convene its first meeting not later than the end of 2011 (in particular, TRACECA suggests arranging the first meeting of such a group in the framework of the Working Group on the realization of the TRACECA concept on the development of the international road haulage);
8. authorise this group of experts to develop recommendations on 2-3 pilot projects with the biggest growth potential for the development of Euro-Asian road transport linkages, as well as trade and road transport facilitation.

The participants in the Coordinating Meeting express their gratitude to the Government of Georgia for the warm welcome and high level of organisation of the event.

* * * * *