

**ODESSA JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION**

"Opportunities and Challenges for intermodal transport in the BSEC Region"

(Odessa, Ukraine, 29 May 2013)

We, the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC member states, who met in Odessa on 29 May 2013 in the framework of the chairmanship of Ukraine in the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC),

NOTING that the Black Sea region plays a key role in trade relations between Europe and Asia and has a significant potential for the development of intermodal transport involving ferries and block trains of combined transport,

AWARE of the fact, that participation of national economies in the globalization processes and in the formation process of a unified information space, global capital, goods, services and labor markets, sets new challenges for meeting the transportation needs, in particular, for improvement of their organizational and technical implementation,

NOTING the progress that was made in the implementation of the Memoranda on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region, the Development of the Motorways of the Sea and the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway, as well as the institutionalization of the activities in these areas,

TAKING NOTE of the implementation by the interested countries of the Project for Issuing BSEC Transit Permits, as well as the commencement of work on the Project for the implementation of the International Vehicle Weight Certificate,

UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE OF the development of international cooperation in the field of transport, finding new ways of resolving issues on the substandard shipments and introduction of new transportation process' technologies,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the constant increase of containerization in transport operations, the global standards of safety and environmental protection,

CONSIDERING the perspective of the development of intermodal transport networks with the maximum use of railways, water transport capacity and minimization of the highways' workload.

AWARE of the significant potential for the development of an efficient and extensive system of intermodal routes in the Black Sea region,

RECOGNIZING that the significant differences in the systems and conditions of the transportation process' organization, in particular the legal, technical and infrastructural differences, are among the constraining factors, which affect the development of the cargo transport in accordance with the requirements of international trade,

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to remove physical and non-physical barriers at the main transport hubs and transshipping facilities including the seaports along the major transport routes in the BSEC region,

REGARDING the fact that one of the main priorities is to create a high-quality transport infrastructure in the BSEC region and being aware of the need to increase both public and private investment in the transport infrastructure towards the efficiency improvement of the transport system and obtaining progress in the transport sector reforms,

NOTING the importance of creating a competitive environment in the field of transport in the BSEC region, as well as the importance of strengthening cooperation with other international organizations, observers and industry partners of the BSEC,

BEING CONVINCED of the need of efficient harmonization of the conditions for cargo flow with the optimal time and reasonable costs,

HAVE DECLARED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO:

1. **CONTINUE** to make efforts for the proper implementation of the Memoranda on Facilitation of Road Transport of Goods in the BSEC region, the Development of the Motorways of the Sea and the Coordinated Development of the Black Sea Ring Highway.
2. **DEVELOP** an appropriate framework for an efficient development of environment-friendly and safe modes, as rail, inland waterways transport, short sea shipping and intermodal freight transportation in the BSEC region,
3. **CONTINUE** the cooperation in the field of developing of the routes, which have already been set up in the BSEC region,
4. **EXPLORE** the possibility of elaborating a mechanism for the use of a single unified document on intermodal transportation in the BSEC region, including the SMGS, CIM, as well as unified CIM / SMGS consignment note,
5. **EXPLORE** the simplification of cross-border control procedures through the harmonization of transport and customs documentation and creation of intelligent transport system,
6. **EXPLORE** the possibility of implementation of the pilot project on introduction of the cargo joint control during the state border' crossing at the selected routes,
7. **STUDY** the possibility of time reduction for cargo clearance by means of optimization of border crossing procedures with the use of "Single Window".
8. **EXAMINE** further possibility of elaborating a Memorandum of Understanding on the Transport Market in the BSEC region towards the development of intermodal transportation using harmonized data and standardized documents,
9. **SUPPORT** the proposal of Ukraine to establish a Task Force on studying possibilities regarding cooperation on intermodal transportation in the Black Sea region, within the framework of the BSEC Working Group on Transport,
10. **FURTHER PROCEED** with the elaboration of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multi-Modal Ferry Lines in the Black Sea region,
11. **PROMOTE** the development of high-quality transport infrastructure with a strong network of logistic centers and intermodal terminals.

The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Government of Ukraine for its great contribution to promotion of transport in the BSEC region, as a Country-Coordinator of the BSEC WG on Transport during 1 July 2011-30 June 2013, as well as for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the meeting.
