

Memorandum of Understanding

BETWEEN

**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION
TRACECA (PS IGC TRACECA)**

AND

THE CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CAREC) INSTITUTE (CI)

2018

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute hereinafter referred to as CAREC Institute, and the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Transport Corridor Europe – the Caucasus – Asia, hereinafter referred to as the PS IGC TRACECA, hereinafter jointly referred to as the Parties,

- basing on the objectives of the Parties and enshrined in the corresponding statutory documents of the Parties;
- recognizing a considerable contribution of transport to the increase of trade between the countries and regions of Europe, the Caucasus and Asia;
- reaffirming mutual striving to promote the development of the existing potential for increasing the volumes of transported cargo, including in transit communication;
- noting common interest of the Parties in strengthening cooperation between them with the view of creating sustainable transport chains;
- aspiring to achieve unified approaches in the development of transport infrastructure of the regions and harmonization of transport conditions;
- having common mandates to promote transport development and to plan to work together on further development of transport corridors as well as – transport infrastructure and facilitation of trade and logistics;
- taking into consideration possible cooperation of the Parties for coordinated actions on large-scale and regular transport development in the regions;

reaffirm their desire to work together in the areas of transport development through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Article 1. Areas of Cooperation

The Parties recognize common interests and agree on cooperation in the following areas:

- Development and operation of international transport corridors including TRACECA transport corridors and Central Asian corridors;
- Promotion of investments in transport infrastructure, including intermodal chains (dry ports) of the regions;
- Promotion of development of international transport and transit along the routes of Europe-the Caucasus-Asia.

- Practical realization of public private partnership by establishing and maintaining an ongoing dialogue on international transport and by reaching coordination of actions between the international organizations, state bodies, forwarders and forwarders' associations etc.
- Simplification and harmonization of border-crossing documentation and procedures including the application of information and communication technologies in international transport;
- Assistance to harmonization in observance of international normative-legal acts in transport (providing assistance to TRACECA countries and CAREC via targeted projects, courses, trainings, etc.);
- Promotion of effective operational practices and the improvement of the efficiency of intermodal transport and logistics;
- Promoting harmonization of transport tariff policy;
- Development and maintenance of transport databases including Geographic Information System (GIS);
- Promotion of policy measures for mitigating the environmental impact of international and transit transport;
- Promotion of safety in the field of transport;
- Development of effective strategies and programs for human resources development in multimodal transport and logistics; joint training and instructing of employed staff that deals with multimodal transport and logistics.

Article 2. Instruments for Cooperation

For the purpose of implementation of the present Memorandum the Parties define the following instruments for cooperation:

- exchange of information as well as of experience and knowledge, accumulated by the Parties in the corresponding fields of activity, through organization and arrangement of joint conferences, workshops, round tables, working groups, meetings and other activities on the issues being of mutual interest;
- participation of the Parties' representatives in joint conferences, workshops, round tables, symposiums and other events in case of their evident expediency for both Parties. Each

Party attends the event on the invitation of the other Party and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Parties;

- preparation of joint research projects, analytical reports and other projects of the Parties;
- exchange of information on international indices of traffic and forecasts for competing transport corridors with the view of determining the existing obstacles for development of transport sector, within the competence of the Parties;
- joint activities regarding the attraction of public, international and private investments in financing and operation of transport network, including the implementation of projects of TRACECA Investment Forums, etc.;
- arrangement of regular consultations to study planned measures, their realization, achievement of the results, as well as discussion of new challenges, opportunities and problems, regarding the areas of cooperation within the framework of the present MoU. The Parties agree to arrange such consultations regularly if required and no less than once in two years.
- other instruments of cooperation agreed by the Parties in every specific instance.

Article 3. Exchange of Information

The Parties recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. To the extent possible under the information disclosure policies of two Parties, the latter agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- a. Provide copies of publications and public documents related to traffic applying transport between two Parties to be maintained as reference documents;
- b. Give notice, through information posted on the websites of each Party, of:
 - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored: regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
 - programme and project approval documents; and
 - regional programme, state programme, sector, project and other evaluations.
- c. Receive and transmit by both Parties to each other all other transport related public documents, if requested and available.

If confidential information is provided by the Parties, the procedure for its transfer is determined by a separate agreement on confidentiality, which is subject to conclusion between the Parties.

Article 4. Principles of Cooperation

Within the framework of the present Memorandum the Parties are guided by generally accepted principles and norms of international law, applicable international agreements and establish cooperation on the principles of equality, mutual respect, openness and honesty.

Article 5. Acknowledgements and Use of Institutional Emblems

The Parties recognize that the involvement of both Parties in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. The Parties agree that:

- a. There will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each Party to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation,
- b. The use of emblems of each Party in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each Party concerning such usage.

Article 6. Focal Points for Management of the MoU

CAREC Institute and the PS IGC TRACECA agree to designate the following focal points for the activities under this MoU:

- a. for CAREC Institute: **Strategic Planning Unit**
- b. for the PS IGC TRACECA: **The Permanent Secretariat of the IGC TRACECA.**

Article 7. Resolution of Disputes

The disputes and disagreements between the Parties on the issues related to the scope of activity of the present Memorandum shall be resolved by means of negotiations or consultations.

Article 8. Amendments and Additions

Amendments and additions to the present Memorandum shall be made by separate protocols being an integral part of the present Memorandum.

Article 9. Term of Validity

The present Memorandum shall be made for an indefinite period and shall be terminated in case of its cancellation by both Parties by mutual consent or by wish of one of the Parties via preliminary written notification of the other Party at least 30 days before the planned termination date.

Article 10. Restriction of Liabilities

The present Memorandum shall not impose any material (financial) or legal liabilities on the Parties.

Article 11. Coming into Effect

The present Memorandum comes into effect from the date of its signature by the authorized officials and completing internal procedures of the Parties.

Done on 10th of September 2018, at Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, in two authentic copies, one for each Party, in the English and Russian languages. Each copy has an equal legally binding force.

For and on behalf of
The Permanent Secretariat of
The Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA

For and on behalf of
The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
Institute



Mircea CIOPRAGA
Secretary General of the PS of IGC TRACECA



Bayaraa SANJAASUREN
Director of Central Asia Regional Economic
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