

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission**  
**TRACECA and**  
**the International Road Transport Union**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA, hereinafter named "PS IGC TRACECA", and the International Road Transport Union, hereinafter named "IRU", hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties",

*BASED upon* the tasks, which face both organisations and which are fixed in the relevant foundation documents of the Parties,

*ACKNOWLEDGING* mutual intention to promote the realisation of the available potential in increasing the volumes of trade, transit and international road transport along the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia routes,

*AWARE of* the need to eliminate the major impediments to road transport within the Great Silk Road routes with the view of increasing volumes of trade in the region,

*RECOGNISING* the role of road transport in the development of economy, trade and tourism, support of social stability and regional economic cooperation among the countries of the vast Euro-Asian Region,

*SEEKING* to provide the effective implementation of the Baku Declaration adopted by the International Conference on the revitalisation of the historical Silk Road, the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor, the Plan of Actions for Increasing Land Transport Safety along the TRACECA corridor, the decisions adopted by the Co-ordination Meeting of the Heads of International Organisations and Financial Institutions on the future development of the Eurasian transport links (June 16, 2011, Tbilisi, Georgia) and recorded in the respective Joint Statement,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the importance of uniting the efforts of the Parties to facilitate the coordinated development of the basic and ancillary road infrastructure, intermodal road and sea links, information technologies to create favourable conditions for international road haulage, to implement measures aimed at the facilitation of road transport operations and simplification of border crossing procedures,

*HAVE AGREED* as follows:



## Article 1 Areas of cooperation

The Parties acknowledge the existence of mutual interests and agree to cooperate in the following areas:

- Facilitation of the development of international road transport and transit along the routes Europe-the Caucasus-Asia, including through realisation of the Concept of Development of International Road Traffic along the Transport Corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia, Increase of Competitiveness and Attractiveness of the TRACECA Road Routes. Practical realization of public-private partnership by establishing and maintaining an ongoing dialogue on road transport and by reaching coordination of actions between the international organizations, state bodies, road hauliers' associations, transport business of the member states of the Basic Multilateral Agreement TRACECA;
- Promotion of transport legislation development through implementation in the national legislation of the TRACECA Basic Multilateral Agreement member-states of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets and other agreements and UN Conventions for the facilitation of trade and international road transport through facilitation of the appropriate border crossing procedures;
- Realisation in the public-private partnership format of the key UN trade and road transport facilitation instruments together with IRU IT tools such as the Border Waiting Times Observatory (BWTO), TIR-EPD and TIR-EPD Green Lines;
- Cooperation with state bodies and road hauliers' associations in identifying and removing the barriers in the field of international road transport by conducting joint studies and analytical reports containing comprehensive analysis of the existing problems and recommendations to all the participants on their step by step removal;
- Promotion and implementation of the promising projects, aimed at facilitation of international road transport along the TRACECA routes and increase of their volume, including the implementation of the Model Highway Initiative (MHI) developed by IRU and realized in the South Caucasus and Central Asian sections of the TRACECA corridor; development of inter-modal road and ferry traffic on the Black and Caspian Seas, creation and implementation of digital maps of roads in the Central Asian countries based on modern satellite and geo-information technologies and other issues.



## **Article 2 Forms of cooperation**

For the purpose of implementation of the present Memorandum the Parties identify the following forms of mutual cooperation:

- exchange of information, including experience and knowledge accumulated by the Parties in the relevant areas of activity by organising and conducting joint conferences, workshops, round tables, working groups, consultations and other types of events on the matters related to the sphere of their common interest;
- participation of the Parties' representatives in joint conferences, workshops, round tables, working meetings and other events in cases where they are clearly deemed necessary for both Parties. Each Party participates in events upon receiving an invitation from the other Party and in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Parties;
- development of joint research projects, analytical reports and other projects of the Parties;
- other forms of cooperation as agreed on a case by case basis by the Parties.

## **Article 3 Principles of cooperation**

Within the framework of the present Memorandum, the Parties shall be governed by the generally accepted principles and the norms of international law which are applicable by international agreements, and shall interact with each other based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, openness and good faith.

#### **Article 4 Settlement of disputes**

Any disputes or disagreements arising between the Parties on matters falling under the scope of the present Memorandum shall be sorted out via negotiations or consultations.

#### **Article 5 Amendments**

Any changes or amendments to the present Memorandum shall be made by separate protocols, which will comprise an integral part of the present Memorandum.

#### **Article 6 Period of validity**

The present Memorandum will be concluded for an undetermined period and terminated if so wished by both Parties mutually or by one of the Parties upon notification in writing to the other Party no less than 30 days in advance of the planned termination date.

#### **Article 7 Limitation of liability**

The present Memorandum does not impose on the Parties any material (financial) and legal obligations.



## Article 8 Entry into force

The present Memorandum shall enter into force from the date of its signature by the authorised officials of the Parties.

Signed in Dushanbe, the Republic of Tajikistan, on 17 September 2013, in two authentic copies, one for each Party, in Russian and English. Each copy has an equal legally binding force.

For the Permanent Secretariat of the  
Intergovernmental Commission  
TRACECA

  
Eduard BIRIUCOV

For the International Road  
Transport Union

  
Martin MARMI