

**MEMORANDUM
OF COOPERATION**

between

**the Permanent Secretariat
of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA
(PS IGC TRACECA)**

and

**the Association of Legal Entities
of the International Association “Trans-Caspian
International Transport Route”
(ALE IA TITR)**

Terms and abbreviations applied in the present Memorandum of Cooperation:

- **PS IGC TRACECA** – Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission of the transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia;
- **ALE “IA “TITR”** – Association of Legal Entities “International Association “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route”;
- **ITC TRACECA** – International Transport Corridor “Europe-the Caucasus-Asia”;
- **TITR Route (Middle Corridor)** – Trans-Caspian International Transport Route;
- **Multimodal transport** – is the transportation of goods performed by at least two different modes of transport, including by rail and sea.

Preamble

Noting that the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Transport Corridor Europe–the Caucasus-Asia (hereinafter referred to as the PS IGC TRACECA) and the Association of Legal Entities “International Association “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route” (hereinafter referred to as the ALE IA TITR) hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties” and individually the “Party” – within the framework of the TRACECA corridor routes and the TITR route, have as common objective the sustainable development of transport;

Recognizing the considerable contribution of exchange of goods to the improvement of social and economic conditions and the development of trade between countries and regions of Europe, the Caucasus and Asia;

In accordance with the objectives of the Parties aimed at developing the international transport routes, attracting foreign trade goods and cargo turnover and reaffirming mutual desire to promote development of the existing potential for increasing the volumes of transported goods, including the increase of transit;

Noting common interest of the Parties in enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation with the view of promoting safety, security and sustainability of transport and increasing volumes of the transported goods;

Noting the Parties desire, in particular, to increase the bilateral exchange of information in all areas pertinent to transport as well as providing mutual support but not limited to that;

Taking into account the main directions and mutual interest in the implementation by the Parties of cooperation in the field of multimodal transport in order to create favorable conditions for the development of business activities and international cooperation in the field of transport, infrastructure and logistics as well as to increase freight flows along the TITR route and the International Transport Corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia;

The Parties have reached understanding on the following issues:

Article 1. Introduction

The **PS IGC TRACECA** and the **ALE IA TITR** reaffirm their desire to work together in the field of transport development through the present Memorandum of Cooperation.

Cooperation between the Parties shall be maintained in compliance with their existing provisions and statutory documentation as well as adhering to the rights and international obligations of the Parties.

Article 2. Objectives of the Memorandum

The objectives of the present Memorandum are to:

- a. Establish close coordination and mutual cooperation within the framework of general powers of the Parties in the field of ensuring transport improvement for further development of international, multimodal transportation and transit along the TITR route and the TRACECA transport corridor;
- b. Provide the opportunity to the institutional structures and participants of the transportation process to benefit from the cooperation between the Parties with the view of improving multimodal transportation along the TITR route and the TRACECA transport corridor;
- c. Promote intense exchange of statistical data and information on organization and performance of multimodal transport, sharing experience, best practices and knowledge to build internal potential allowing for enhancement of the transportation process with the view of improving service and rendering competitive services;
- d. Support in fulfillment of transit potential of the TITR route and along the TRACECA transport corridor.

Article 3. Areas of Cooperation

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

- a. improved international transport along the TITR route within the ITC TRACECA, including multimodal transport;
- b. simplification and harmonization of the existing documents and/or joint development of new border-crossing documentation and procedures including with the view of digitalizing and widely using advanced information and communication technologies in international transport and the legal field;
- c. identification and elimination of non-physical barriers (tariff, customs and technical) aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of international transport along the TITR route and the TRACECA transport corridor on the whole;
- d. provision of consulting and informational assistance with the view of removing the “bottlenecks”, realizing perspective initiatives, ideas, or practices agreed between the Parties in order to increase freight traffic along the TITR route and within the TRACECA transport corridor on the whole;
- e. promoting the introduction of digital technologies and intelligent systems in the field of freight forwarding and logistic activities;

- f. securing and improving transportation security measures and promoting safety condition of cargo in compliance with the rules for multimodal freight transportation;
- g. other cooperation areas agreed between the Parties.

Article 4. Modalities of Cooperation

For the purposes of this Memorandum the Parties determine the following modalities of cooperation:

- a. development of initiatives to improve the legal and regulatory framework in the field of international traffic, as well as in freight forwarding and logistics activity;
- b. promotion of policy measures for mitigating the environmental impact of international and transit transport;
- c. attracting investments, grants, subsidies from International Financial Institutions, donors and partners in future development, including within the framework of the programmes "TEN-T", "INEA", "CEF-T" and "Horizon 2020", as well as the programmes within the framework of the EU-Central Asia Strategy of cooperation , but not limited to them, with the view of advanced development of multimodal transport and transport infrastructure on the whole.
- d. participation of the Parties' representatives in joint conferences, workshops, round tables, working sessions and other events in case of their advantage for both Parties;
- e. other modalities of cooperation agreed by the Parties.

Article 5. Exchange of Information

Under the information disclosure policies, the Parties agree to:

- a. provide extracts from the minutes of the General meeting of ALE "IA "TITR" and decisions of the IGC TRACECA regarding the implementation of this Memorandum and of other significant meetings;
- b. give notice, through information posted on the websites of each Party, of:
 - conferences, advanced training courses and workshops being organized as: regional, public , sector;
 - thematic, policy/programme documents.

Article 6. Confidentiality of Information

Information and data that are considered proprietary by either Party or that are delivered or disclosed by one Party to the other Party during the course of the performance of this Memorandum, and that is designated as confidential ("Confidential Information"), shall be held in confidence. The Parties shall use the same care and discretion to avoid disclosure, publication or dissemination of the Confidential Information as they use with their own similar Confidential Information that they do not wish to disclose, publish or disseminate.

Article 7. Reciprocal Invitations

The Parties may send the invitations to the meetings, conferences, workshops and other events being important for cooperation in priority areas in compliance with the objectives of the present Memorandum:

The Parties may hold joint events (conferences, meetings, etc.) in order to solve the relevant issues of developing transport, forwarding and logistic activities along the TITR (Middle Corridor) and TRACECA routes;

The Parties agreed to provide mutual possibilities to participate in the events held by the Parties in case of their evident usefulness;

other areas of cooperation agreed by the Parties in each specific case.

Article 8. General Principles of Cooperation

The Parties will be guided by the following general principles:

- a. application of long-term approaches to inclusive and sustainable development of the TITR route and along the TRACECA transport corridor on the whole;
- b. development policies and programmes of cooperation should be results-oriented.

Article 9. Focal Points for Management of the Memorandum

The PS IGC TRACECA and the ALE "IA "TITR" shall designate the following focal points for the activities under this Memorandum:

- a. for the PS IGC TRACECA: **Secretary General of the PS IGC TRACECA**
- b. for the ALE "IA "TITR": **Secretary General of IA "TITR"**

Article 10. Acknowledgement and Use of Institutional Emblems

The Parties agree that:

- a. There will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each Party to cooperation projects in running of all or a part of the events arranged for the purposes of the present Memorandum,
- b. The use of emblems of each Party in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the Parties in every particular case concerning such usage.

Article 11. Amendments and Additions

This Memorandum may be amended only by mutual agreement of the Parties, by written request of either Party. The amendments and additions to this Memorandum will be documented in individual Protocols constituting an integral part of this Memorandum.

This Protocol on amendments will enter into force on the date of its signature by the Parties.

Article 12. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute arising from or in connection with this Memorandum and/or its Protocols including interpretation or application of any provision herein contained will be settled through consultations between the Parties.

Article 13. Period of validity

- a. The duration of this Memorandum shall begin from the date of signature by both Parties and shall be valid for three years; and
- b. This Memorandum may be renewed for another three years unless either of the Parties notified in writing on the termination of the Memorandum at least three months before the expiration of its validity period.

Article 14. Exemption clauses

This Memorandum and its executive arrangements will not prejudice the performance of obligations arising out of the existing provisions and constituent documents of the Parties and observing the rights and international obligations of the Parties.

This Memorandum of Cooperation is not an international treaty, does not create rights and obligations regulated by international law or does not entail any legal consequences for any of the Parties.

Done in, on 20..., in 2 original copies, in the English and Russian languages, one copy for each Party, both texts being equally authentic.

**For the Permanent Secretariat of the
Intergovernmental Commission
TRACECA (PS IGC TRACECA)**

**For the Association of Legal Entities
“International Association “Trans-
Caspian International Transport Route”
(ALE “IA TITR”)**

**Asset Assavbayev
Secretary General**

**Rakhmetollah Kudaybergenov
Secretary General**