



FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION TRACECA
Sofia, Bulgaria, October 21, 2021

ПЯТНАДЦАТОЕ ЕЖЕГОДНОЕ ЗАСЕДАНИЕ
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННОЙ КОМИССИИ ТРАСЕКА
г. София, Болгария, 21 октября 2021 г.

SOFIA DECLARATION

The Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA having held its Fifteenth Annual Meeting via videoconference on 21 October 2021, in Sofia, the Republic of Bulgaria,

following in its activity the provisions and objectives specified in the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor (MLA),

acknowledging its commitment to the provisions of the Brussels Declaration of 1993, the Baku Summit of 1998, as well as sharing the aspirations of the MLA Parties expressed in the Decisions and Declarations of the IGC TRACECA, adopted at its previous annual high-level meetings,

considering the growing demand in improving the efficiency and safety of existing transport communications for the sake of developing international transport, trade and economic cooperation,

believing that reliable and environmentally sound Eurasian transport links will be based on the convergence of national legislation with the provisions of international agreements and conventions, simplification and harmonization of customs and other border crossing procedures, especially in the performance of transit traffic,

contributing to the further process of removing institutional and legal barriers to transport and international trade, the development of the rail and road sectors, rail-and-ferry transport communications and sea routes, as well as multimodal transport,

pointing out the role of cooperation and the results of activities with international and regional organizations, and financial institutions, based on the use of best practices and advanced technologies for the purpose of trade development and sustainable connectivity,

reiterating the determination of the MLA Parties to make efforts in the institutional strengthening of TRACECA as an instrument of international cooperation for the purpose of effective implementation of the strategic goals of the development of the international transport corridor,

highlighting the important role of the private sector in the development of efficient transport services and logistics solutions, as well as their positive contribution to the modernization of infrastructure along the entire TRACECA corridor,

appreciating the desire to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the European Commission in order to further develop transport links between Europe, the Caucasus and Asia,

has declared the following:

The MLA Parties express their intention to further develop trade-economic relations and transport connectivity;

The IGC TRACECA welcomes and supports the policy of the MLA Parties aimed at further improvement of transportation of goods and passengers along the TRACECA corridor via implementation of digital technologies, modernization of transport infrastructure, simplification of border crossing procedures and development of multimodal transport at the national level;

The participants of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA highlight the work done by the Permanent Secretariat of the IGC TRACECA to facilitate the conditions for the carriage of goods during the spread of the coronavirus infection (COVID-19) pandemic as well as the efforts to develop container traffic in rail and sea traffic links, to promote the gradual liberalization of international road transport, harmonize and simplify procedures for crossing borders between the MLA member states, and to implement digitalization in the field of transport;

The IGC TRACECA considers it necessary to make further efforts of the MLA Parties to develop transportations by water, including the issues of ensuring the safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Caspian and Black Seas, for the effective functioning of the TRACECA multimodal corridor;

The member countries of TRACECA Permits System stress the importance of increasing the number of member countries of the TRACECA Permit System and TRACECA multilateral permits quota;

The MLA Parties concerned acknowledge the necessity of signing the Agreement on a Single Transit Permit of TRACECA to facilitate road transport;

The IGC TRACECA recognizes the need to further deepen cooperation with international organizations, implement further measures to strengthen regional and interregional cooperation and form a modern transport system in order to ensure the most effective use of the TRACECA transport corridor potential;

The MLA Parties emphasized the importance of ensuring the harmonization of requirements and standards for various modes of transport in order to ensure a single legal space along the entire TRACECA corridor;

The participants of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA noted the need to establish closer contacts between landlocked and transit countries with a view to ensuring unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access for the landlocked developing countries to and from the sea, including through the development of transport corridors between Europe and Asia on the basis of freedom of transit and other related matters, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

The MLA Parties expressed their readiness to vigorously implement the agreements reached within the framework of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA, and to be highly involved in the work on new initiatives together with the Permanent Secretariat of the IGC TRACECA;

Recognizing the importance of the decisions taken, the IGC TRACECA expresses satisfaction with the results achieved at its Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA;

The participants of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA express their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the PS for the high level of arranging and holding the event.