



**SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION TRACECA**
Tbilisi, Georgia, February 10, 2023

**ШЕСТНАДЦАТОЕ ЕЖЕГОДНОЕ ЗАСЕДАНИЕ
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННОЙ КОМИССИИ ТРАСЕКА**
г. Тбилиси, Грузия, 10 февраля 2023 г.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA having held its Sixteenth (Anniversary) Annual Meeting on 10 February 2023, in Tbilisi, Georgia:

- attaching particular importance to the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Brussels Declaration and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the "Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor" (MLA);
- discussed the issues in accordance with the adopted Agenda (**Appendix 1**);
- heard the report of the Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat (PS) IGC TRACECA, Mr Asset Assavbayev, on the activities of the PS IGC TRACECA in the period between the Fifteenth and the Sixteenth (Anniversary) Annual Meetings of the IGC TRACECA;
- heard the speeches of the MLA Parties on the work done to implement the decisions and recommendations of the IGC TRACECA, the Strategy of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA for development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia for 2016-2026 (Strategy);
- taking into account the appeal of the Georgian Party on the priorities of fulfilling the mandate of the Chairman in the IGC TRACECA;
- considered financial, institutional, legal, conceptual and other issues that are important for the further development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) and increasing its competitiveness;
on the basis of Article 8 of the MLA

ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

- 1. On the implementation of the Action Plan for 2018-2021 for implementation of the Strategy of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA for development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia for 2016-2026 worked out on the basis of the TRACECA Master Plan and proposals of the MLA Parties.**

The IGC TRACECA heard the Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for 2018-2021 for implementation of the Strategy worked out on the basis of the TRACECA Master Plan and proposals of the MLA Parties for 2021 (**Appendix 2**), prepared by the PS IGC TRACECA based on the reports of the MLA Parties.

The IGC TRACECA:

- took note of this Report and recognized the Action Plan for 2018-2021 for the implementation of the Strategy to be completed;
- positively assessed the work done by the MLA Parties to achieve the aims and objectives of the Strategy for the reporting period;
- instructed the PS IGC TRACECA to annually prepare a Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for 2022-2026 for implementation of the Strategy based on the reports of the MLA Parties and submit it for consideration by the IGC TRACECA Meeting.

2. On monitoring of the implementation of the IGC TRACECA decisions by the MLA Parties and the status of accession to the TRACECA international agreements.

The IGC TRACECA heard and discussed the Information on the implementation of the Final Resolutions of the IGC TRACECA in the period of 2010-2021 (**Appendix 3**) and the status of accession to the TRACECA international agreements (**Appendix 4**).

The IGC TRACECA:

- approved the Information on the implementation of the Final Resolutions of the IGC TRACECA within the period of 2010-2021 and the proposal of the PS IGC TRACECA to remove items 1, 2, 9 and 10 from the list of resolutions to be monitored;
- took note of the information on the work done by the MLA Parties on accession to the TRACECA international agreements and recommended, that the MLA Parties that have not acceded to the TRACECA international agreements consider the possibility of acceding to them;
- instructed the PS IGC TRACECA to continue monitoring of the implementation of the Final Resolutions of the IGC TRACECA and accession to the TRACECA international agreements.

3. On TRACECA Permits System.

3.1. On the results of the TRACECA Permits System operation for international road transport in 2021.

The IGC TRACECA discussed and approved the information on the results of the operation of the TRACECA Permits System for international road transport in 2021 (**Appendix 5**).

3.2. On accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the TRACECA Permits System.

The IGC TRACECA welcomed the intention of the Republic of Kazakhstan to accede to the TRACECA Permits System and encouraged the MLA Parties (Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Bulgaria, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan) to accede to the TRACECA Permits System for further development of international road transport.

The member countries of the TRACECA Permits System unanimously expressed their consent to the accession of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the TRACECA Permits System and recognized the need for its further development by increasing the number of member countries and the number of multilateral TRACECA permits.

4. On evaluating check points.

4.1. On the results of evaluating road check points.

The IGC TRACECA, positively assessing the efforts of the PS IGC TRACECA and the MLA Parties to evaluate the performance of checkpoints, approved the Evaluation Report on Performance of Road Checkpoints along TRACECA Routes (**Appendix 6**).

4.2. On approval of the draft Methodology of evaluating check points in the new edition.

The IGC TRACECA agreed with the proposal of the PS IGC TRACECA to update the previously adopted Methodology of evaluating checkpoints and approved it in the new edition (**Appendix 7**).

The Parties to the MLA agreed to take the necessary measures to implement the provisions of the Methodology of evaluating checkpoints for the preparation of the next evaluation report on performance of road checkpoints along TRACECA routes.

5. On approval of the Border Crossing Hotline Concept.

The IGC TRACECA approved the Border Crossing Hotline Concept (**Appendix 8**) and the desire of the MLA Parties to raise awareness of the participants in the transportation process.

The IGC TRACECA:

- instructed the PS IGC TRACECA to work out the possibility of attracting funds to implement the provisions of the Concept;
- recommended the MLA Parties to take active measures to apply the provisions of the Concept at the national level.

6. On approval of the Methodology for the generation of statistical data along the routes of the TRACECA corridor.

Realizing the importance of generating reliable data on the volumes of cargo transportation along the TRACECA routes, the IGC TRACECA approved the Methodology for the generation of statistical data along the routes of the TRACECA corridor (**Appendix 9**) and recommended the MLA Parties to take measures to provide data to the PS IGC TRACECA in accordance with the provisions of this Methodology.

The IGC TRACECA instructed the PS IGC TRACECA to take measures to implement the provisions of the Methodology and to ensure the annual collection of statistical data in order to inform the MLA Parties of up-to-date aggregate data on the volumes of goods transported along the TRACECA routes.

7. On multimodal transport.

7.1. On approval of the Overview "Multimodal Transport Legal Framework".

The IGC TRACECA discussed and approved the Overview "Multimodal Transport Legal Framework" (**Appendix 10**).

7.2. On approval of the Review of the measures taken to promote multimodal transport.

The IGC TRACECA approved the Review of the measures taken to promote multimodal transport (**Appendix 11**) and recommended:

- the MLA Parties to take measures to implement the recommendations provided in the Review;
- the PS IGC TRACECA to continue to assist the MLA Parties in developing measures to promote multimodal transport.

8. On establishment of the TRACECA Business Council.

The IGC TRACECA agreed with the proposal to establish the TRACECA Business Council (**Appendices 12 and 13**) and instructed the PS IGC TRACECA to continue work on finalizing and deliberating the relevant documents and submit them, as well as a report on the progress done, for the consideration of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA.

9. On establishment of the TRACECA Fund.

The IGC TRACECA adopted the initiative on the establishment of the TRACECA Fund (**Appendices 14, 15 and 16**), instructed the PC IGC TRACECA to create a Working group for elaboration of the documents and recommended their preparation for consideration and approval at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA.

10. On the draft Agreement on visa-free travel of professional drivers along the TRACECA corridor.

The IGC TRACECA approved the work of the PS IGC TRACECA on the facilitation of visa requirements (**Appendix 17**) and recommended the interested MLA Parties, together with the PS IGC TRACECA, to continue work on finalizing the text of the draft Agreement on visa-free travel of professional drivers along the TRACECA corridor (**Appendix 18**).

11. On the Concept of the vessel proposed for cargo transport in the Caspian Sea.

The IGC TRACECA considered the Concept of the vessel proposed for cargo transport in the Caspian Sea (**Appendix 19**) and recommended the PS IGC TRACECA to continue the work on the elaboration of the Concept of the vessel for cargo transport.

12. On setting-up of the Working Group on digitalization of the TRACECA corridor.

The IGC TRACECA approved the proposal of the PS IGC TRACECA on setting up of the Working Group on digitalization of the TRACECA corridor (**Appendix 20**) and recommended the MLA Parties to ensure the active participation of their representatives in the activity of the Working Group to implement the provisions of the Digital Concept of the International Transport Corridor TRACECA.

13. On financing of the PS IGC TRACECA.

13.1. On making amendments and additions to the Rules for formation and execution of the budget of the PS IGC TRACECA.

The IGC TRACECA decided to make amendments and additions to the Rules for formation and execution of the budget of the PS IGC TRACECA (**Appendix 21**).

According to the proposal of the PS IGC TRACECA agreed with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IGC TRACECA determined the amount of the debt of the Islamic Republic of Iran as of 1 January 2022 in the size of 20,800.50 euros (twenty thousand eight hundred euros fifty cents). Contributions of the Islamic Republic of Iran for 2022 and 2023 are subject to be transferred in the size in accordance with paragraph 14.5 of the Final Resolutions of the IGC TRACECA of 21 October 2021.

The IGC TRACECA instructed the PS IGC TRACECA and the MLA Parties to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Rules in the formation and execution of the budget of the PS IGC TRACECA.

13.2. On Financial Report on Budget Execution by the PS IGC TRACECA for 2021, and Report of the Auditing Team on the Execution of the PS IGC TRACECA Budget for 2021.

The IGC TRACECA, in compliance with point 11, Article 5 and point 14, Article 5 of the Agreement on Joint Financing of the PS IGC TRACECA, adopted the Financial Report on Budget Execution by the PS IGC TRACECA for 2021 (**Appendix 22**) and the Report of the Auditing Team on the Execution of the PS IGC TRACECA Budget for 2021 (**Appendix 23**).

13.3. On the results of the independent audit of the financial reporting of the PS IGC TRACECA for 2018-2020.

The IGC TRACECA, in accordance with paragraph 18, Article 5 of the Rules for formation and execution of the budget of the PS IGC TRACECA, and highly appreciating the work carried out by the PS IGC TRACECA to improve the transparency of its financial activities, accepted the results of the independent audit of the financial reporting of the PS IGC TRACECA for 2018-2020 (**Appendix 24**).

13.4. On the draft Budget of the PS IGC TRACECA for 2023.

The IGC TRACECA adopted and approved the Budget of the PS IGC TRACECA for 2023 (**Appendices 25 and 26**), prepared in compliance with points 1-7, Article 5 of the Agreement on Joint Financing of the PS IGC TRACECA and paragraph 1, Article 3 of the Rules for formation and execution of the budget of the PS IGC TRACECA.

13.5. On composition of the Auditing Team on the Execution of the PS IGC TRACECA Budget for 2023.

According to point 12, Article 5 of the Agreement on Joint Financing of the PS IGC TRACECA and paragraph 4, Article 5 of the Rules for formation and execution of the budget of the PS IGC TRACECA, taking into account the transition of the Chairmanship of the IGC TRACECA from the Republic of Bulgaria to Georgia, the IGC TRACECA determined the following composition of the auditing team on the execution of the PS IGC TRACECA Budget for 2023 - one representative each from the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

13.6. On determining the size of the annual contribution amount of the MLA Parties for 2024.

For the provision of the PS IGC TRACECA budget for 2024, the contribution of the MLA Parties shall be determined in equal shares of 60 000 (sixty thousand) euros from each MLA Party.

The IGC TRACECA recommended that the MLA Parties transfer the contributions in accordance with point 1, Article 4 of the Agreement on Joint Financing of the PS IGC TRACECA.

The IGC TRACECA addressed to:

- The MLA Parties (Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyz Republic) with a request to pay off their existing outstanding debts to the budget of the PS IGC TRACECA;
- The Uzbek Party with a request to expedite the procedures for accession to the Agreement on Joint Financing of the PS IGC TRACECA between the Governments of the Parties to the MLA.

14. On accession of Turkmenistan to the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor.

The IGC TRACECA welcomed the intention of Turkmenistan to accede to the MLA, expressed hope for the soonest completion of domestic procedures by Turkmenistan and the start of procedures for accession to the Agreement on Joint Financing of the PS IGC TRACECA between the Governments of the Parties to the MLA.

15. On election of the Secretary General of the PS IGC TRACECA.

The IGC TRACECA, in accordance with paragraph 11.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the IGC TRACECA, and paragraph 3.2. of the Statute of the PS IGC TRACECA, elected Mr Asset Assavbayev (Kazakhstan) as the Secretary General of the PS IGC TRACECA.

16. Information on holding the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA.

In accordance with the MLA and the Rules of Procedure of the IGC TRACECA, the next Seventeenth Annual IGC TRACECA Meeting will be held in second quarter 2024, in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The exact date of the Meeting will be determined by the Iranian Party additional and brought to the MLA Parties in advance.

Ukrainian Party informed that the participation of their delegation are impossible on the next Annual IGC Meeting and proposed to pass the Chairmanship in the IGC to the next MLA Party according to the alphabetical order.

The IGC TRACECA Meeting In accordance with p.6.3 of the Rules of procedure of the IGC TRACECA, the Chairmanship in the IGC TRACECA shall pass to the next MLA Party according to the alphabetical order. Taking into account the readiness of the Iranian Party to assume the Chairmanship in the IGC TRACECA, the proposal of Ukrainian Party does not match the p.6.3 of the Rules of procedure of the IGC TRACECA.

The present Final Resolutions of the IGC TRACECA were adopted by consensus of the MLA Parties at the Sixteenth (Anniversary) Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA, on 10 February 2023, in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Chairman of the IGC TRACECA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be in Persian or Arabic script, located below the title of the Chairman of the IGC TRACECA.