



**SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION TRACECA**
Astana, Kazakhstan, 12-13 December, 2007

**ШЕСТОЕ ЕЖЕГОДНОЕ ЗАСЕДАНИЕ
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННОЙ КОМИССИИ ТРАСЕКА**
г. Астана, Казахстан, 12-13 декабря 2007 г.

ASTANA DECLARATION

The Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA at its Sixth Annual Meeting (Conference) on 12-13 December, 2007 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan,

pursuing the principles of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe - the Caucasus - Asia Corridor (hereinafter referred to as the Basic Agreement) and **guided** by its provisions,

affirming once again its adherence to the spirit, values and messages of the Brussels Declaration of 1993 and the Declaration of the Baku Summit of 1998, as well as sharing the statements expressed in the declarations of IGC TRACECA, adopted at its previous annual meetings,

highly **appreciating** positive results of the Tacis TRACECA Programme activities and assistance of the European Union (EU) being rendered under the framework of this Programme,

expressing assurance of further fruitful cooperation with the European Union in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP),

welcoming the EU intentions to enhance its cooperation with the TRACECA countries for the purpose of implementing further structural reforms in the transport sector and creating a functioning transport market, in accordance with the Strategy of IGC TRACECA for Development of the International Transport Corridor "Europe – the Caucasus – Asia" for the period up to 2015,

welcoming the determination of the Parties to the Basic Agreement to endeavour to support strengthening of TRACECA, as an instrument of international cooperation for effective realization of strategic objectives of the Europe – the Caucasus – Asia transport corridor development,

hereby declares:

IGC TRACECA welcomes further participation in TRACECA of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania, which became members of the EU on 1 January 2007.

IGC TRACECA acknowledges the importance of its further strengthening as it is envisaged in the Basic Agreement and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 9 of the Strategy of IGC TRACECA for Development of the International Transport Corridor "Europe – the Caucasus – Asia" up to 2015.

IGC TRACECA emphasizes the necessity of the Anniversary Summit, which will give a new impulse to develop TRACECA, makes a decision to convoke the Summit in 2008, in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and continues to prepare the Summit, starting from p. 9.3 of the Strategy of IGC TRACECA for Development of the International Transport Corridor "Europe – the Caucasus – Asia" for the period up to 2015.

IGC TRACECA will contribute to the unification of the legal basis and draw up corresponding acts regulating multimodal transport and freight forwarding services, taking into account their increasing role and realizing the necessity to follow up their regulatory-legal basis.

Acknowledging the importance of development of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and in view of the experience of other international structures and organizations, IGC TRACECA will continue its activities towards establishment of the TRACECA Business Advisory Council (BAC) and its studies on the issue of creation of the TRACECA Investment Fund.

Realizing the significance of reinforcing the cooperation between the MLA member countries and the European Commission, an enhanced dialogue will be launched between the EC and the MLA member countries in the framework of the exploratory talks on extension of Trans-European Transport Networks to the neighbouring countries and countries of Central Asia.

The IGC TRACECA welcomes the conclusions of the 2nd Baku Aviation working group meeting that took place in Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova, on 22 October 2007 and stresses the need for further cooperation between the participating countries and the EC in the field of civil aviation notably in the area of aviation safety and air traffic management.

IGC TRACECA expresses its satisfaction with outcomes of the Sixth Annual Meeting and acknowledges the importance of the decisions made.

Participants of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA express their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the high level of the organisation of the Conference and hospitality received.