

THE BAKU DECLARATION

Baku

September 8, 1998

Heads of States, Governments and heads of delegations-participants at the International Conference on Restoration of the Historic Silk Route, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Expressing their aspiration for fruitful and mutually beneficial economic and trade cooperation,

Acknowledging the importance of the development of interlinked national and regional transport infrastructures for expansion of cooperation in the regions of Europe, the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and Asia,

Stressing their common interest in the development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor including transport routes of the Black Sea region on the basis of revival of the ancient transport route of human civilization the Great Silk Route,

Noting the importance of the principles and objectives of the Brussels Declaration of May 7, 1993 (Brussels Declaration) as well as the adherence to the generally recognized principles and norms of international law,

Emphasizing the importance of the implementation of the TRACECA programme to provide sustainable access to Trans-European and Trans-Asian transport networks for the land-locked Caucasian and Central Asian countries,

Noting the positive role of the regional and sub-regional interaction and cooperation in establishing international peace and security, and growth of confidence and stability,

Declare as follows:

1. The Parties support the initiatives and efforts undertaken in the interests of developing the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor and express their satisfaction with the implementation process of the main objectives of the Brussels Declaration.

2. Noting the contribution of the European Union made to the implementation of the TRACECA programme, the Parties welcome the European Union's resolution to take further coordinated actions to promote the above mentioned programme and to develop the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia corridor.

3. The Parties particularly emphasize the importance of safeguarding peace, security, stability and confidence, settlement of regional conflicts on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, the principles and decisions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the successful implementation of projects within the framework of the TRACECA programme and the sustainable functioning of the Europe- the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor.

4. The Parties underline the significance of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor in the context of international cooperation for development of the Caspian Sea and Central Asia region countries and express their readiness to provide to these countries free access to sea-ports. Noting the particular role and place of the region in the architecture of Eurasian integration being formed, the Parties express their support for the efforts of the countries of the region directed to closer integration with international trade and transport systems and for the expansion of cooperation in the field of rehabilitation and optimization of the existing and, initiation and assistance in establishing new environmentally secure and cost effective transport infrastructures for transporting goods, including energy to world markets.

5. The Parties note with satisfaction the growing interest in the revival of the Great Silk Route in particular through implementation of the TRACECA programme and invite all interested States to pool their material and human resources to encourage mutually beneficial cooperation for achievement of this objective.

6. The Parties express their intention to pursue cooperation for developing the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor with the Economic Commissions of the UN for Europe and for Asia and the Pacific, other relevant UN system agencies, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization and other international organizations and financial institutions.

7. The Parties agree that strengthening of the institutional and legal framework of cooperation for developing the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor will promote increasing efficiency of interaction between participating States. In this respect the Parties welcome the signing of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor (The Basic Agreement) as an important institutional mechanism to help develop and regulate international transport of goods and passengers, including transport in transit, coordination and harmonization of transport policies and legal frameworks in the field of transport. The Parties also express the hope that setting up of an Inter-Governmental Commission and its Permanent Secretariat as well as setting up of permanent representations of the Permanent Secretariat in each of the States-participants of the Basic Agreement will promote efficient implementation of the provisions of the Basic Agreement.

8. The Parties note the importance of the coordinating mechanisms for participation in implementation of the TRACECA programme established at national level as well as in the framework of the European Union.

9. The Parties confirm their intention to use the dynamics and potential of the private entrepreneurship to increase the effectiveness

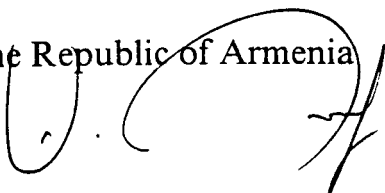
of cooperation, initiation and implementation of investment projects meeting the objectives of development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor.

10. The Parties express their satisfaction with the results of the Baku International Conference on Restoration of the Historic Silk Route as an important milestone in institutional strengthening and enhancement of cooperation for further developing the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia transport corridor in the interests of economic progress of the participating States.

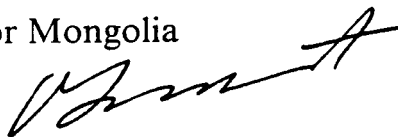
11. The Parties highly appreciate the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev and the President of Georgia H.E. Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze and the European Union's support for the idea of holding an International Conference on Restoration of the Historic Silk Route.

12. The Parties express appreciation to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting in Baku this International Conference and for the excellent organizational arrangements, and for the cordiality and hospitality extended to them by the Government and people of Azerbaijan.

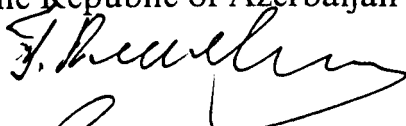
For the Republic of Armenia



For Mongolia



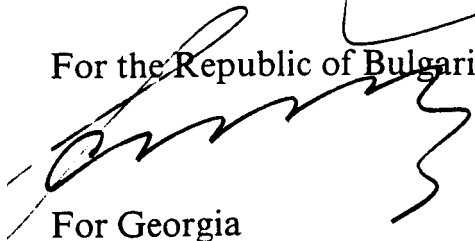
For the Republic of Azerbaijan



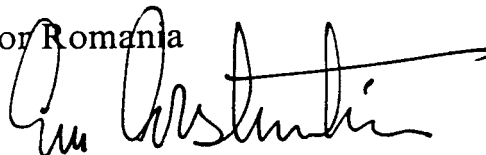
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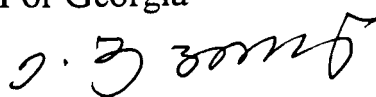
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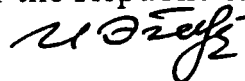
For Romania



For Georgia



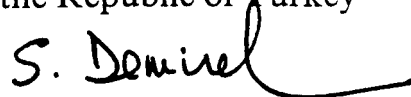
For the Republic of Tajikistan



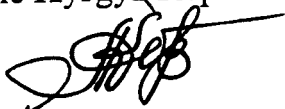
For the Republic of Kazakhstan



For the Republic of Turkey



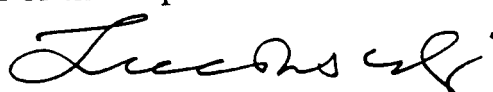
For the Kyrgyz Republic



For Ukraine



For the Republic of Moldova



For the Republic of Uzbekistan

