



INLAND WATER-WAYS of EURASIA

*International
transport
forum*

DECLARATION

of the International Transport Forum

“Inland waterways of Eurasia”

The representatives of transport administrations of Central and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia with the participation of International Transport and Financial organizations, research-and-development institution, main owners and carriers of goods, which participated in the Special International Transport Forum “Inland waterways of Eurasia”, that was held in Odessa, Ukraine, on 12-13 October 2004,

Taking into consideration the importance and relevance of the measures and initiatives undertaken with a view to intensification of the use of inland waterways for goods transportation in Euro-Asian Area,

Confirming their adherence to the key international conferences on the development of inland waterways,

Noting the importance of the activities carried on in this field by the European Commission, UNECE, International Maritime Organization, Danube Commission and Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine and by other international organizations concerned,

Considered the following key issues concerning the problems and perspectives for the use of inland waterways for goods transportation in Euro-Asian region:

- Integration of transport systems of European and Central Asian countries,
- Perspectives for the use of inland waterways for goods transportation in Euro-Asian Area inclusive of EU transport policy,
- Development of Pan-European Transport Corridor VII (Danube),
- Renewing the navigation via all the routes of this particular Corridor, including Ukrainian part of the Danube river delta,
- Ways for the realization of the projects, that facilitate the development of the inland waterway system of the Euro-Asian region that includes inter alia:
 - creation of deepwater shipping passes “Danube - Black Sea” and their feasibility,
 - development of inland waterways of the International Transport Corridor “North - South” and, in the first place, its Azov – Astrakhan section,

- creation of the Black Sea – Azov Sea container terminal,
- creation of universal deepwater terminal complex in the area of Kerch – Yenical channel.
- Ensuring the safety of navigation on waterways of Euro- Asian area on the basis of the requirements of International Maritime Organization, UNECE, Central Commission for the Navigation of The Rhine, the Danube Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) as well as national legislation of countries-participants of the Forum,
- Possibilities and prospects for the further development of carrying capacities of inland waterways of the Eastern Europe, including the River Don, Volga – Don Canal, River Volga and Volga – Baltic Sea Waterway for transit goods traffic,
- Other issues of relevance to the development of Euro –Asian system of navigable inland waterways,

Believed that the successful realization of these works will further the harmonization of the transport-related legislation in countries-participants of the Forum in accordance with international agreements and conventions as well as with the legislation and principles of the European Union transport policy;

Recommend to the Organizing Committee of this Forum to call upon the Governments of the countries-participants of the Forum for a creation of a Permanent Intergovernmental Working Group on the Development of Inland Waterways in Euro-Asian Region, which is to study the perspectives for the further development of the Pan–European Transport Corridor VII (Danube), including the possibilities for using the maritime and river sections of the TRACECA and North – South transport corridors.

Consider it appropriate for the Organizing Committee to invite the European Commission to carry out a comparative analysis of the customs legislation norms in countries-participants making its recommendations as to possible solutions of the problems therein.

Agree with the necessity of organizing such International Transport Forum regularly as well as suggesting to the Organizing Committee of the Forum to invite the European Commission, UNECE and the Danube Commission to consider a possibility for organization of the future Fora under their joint auspices,

Believes also that the results of this first Forum will help to improve the cooperation and implementation of strategic transport projects aimed at the development of inland waterways in the Euro –Asian region.

Odessa, October 12, 2004