

CONCLUSIONS

OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR "INTERMODAL TRANSPORT BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES"

Representatives of transport authorities of European, Central Asian and Caucasus States, ECMT, UNECE, UNESCAP, EU and other international organizations as well as transport unions and associations and other concerned bodies, which took part in the international seminar held in Kyiv on 27 and 28 September 2004,

Taking into account the importance and timeliness of efforts to develop intermodal transport communications for the sustainable development of international traffic in the European and Asian direction,

Supporting the initiatives of the Member States for acceleration of intermodal transport development, creation of up-to-date transport infrastructure and the introduction of new technologies,

Confirming their adherence to the resolutions of international conferences adopted before, as well as the provisions of relevant International Transport Conventions and Treaties,

Acknowledging the efforts of ECMT, UNECE, UNESCAP and the EU TRACECA Programme for the development of European and Asian transport links directed to a consistent, coordinated and harmonious development of the transport infrastructure on the continent,

Welcoming the initiative taken by ECMT and UNECE to work in partnership towards the development of intermodal transport and logistics,

Having discussed the prospects of intermodal transport and ways for improving its organisation,

Have considered that the main lines of further joint activities for the creation of effective intermodal land transport links between Europe and Asia should be as follows:

- combining efforts in order to increase the efficiency of measures taken to raise the volumes of intermodal transport through the development of technical and technological capacities of transport infrastructures of the Member States,
- increase in the coordination of activities of transport, Customs and border authorities of the Member States for simplification of border crossing procedures for freight transportation using intermodal transport,
- removal of physical and non-physical obstacles that impede passing of traffic between the countries of the European and Asian region,

- enlargement of the network of intermodal transport by faster accession of the countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus to the AGTC Agreement and its Protocol on combined transport on inland waterways,
- development and implementation of joint investment projects and ensuring their financing,
- acceleration of freight traffic by rail in gauge interchange stations,
- creation of a network of logistics centres and information support for freight transport,
- implementation of harmonized tariff and price policies,
- development of rail ferry lines in the region of the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Caspian Sea and improved use of the inland waterways for intermodal transport,
- increased use of rail transit capacities for intermodal freight transport for passage from China to Europe via Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Russian Federation, Belarus, the Caucasus States, Ukraine and Turkey,
- support to the United Nations Development Account Project on capacity building for developing, in particular, Euro-Asian transport linkages, jointly carried out by the UNECE and UNESCAP,
- harmonization of the regulatory and legal frameworks in the field of transport of the Member States on the basis of international agreements, ECMT resolutions, UNECE conventions and the legislation and principles of EU transport policy.

Ask the International Organizations involved to follow-up and deal concretely with the issues and problems above and to make available all the information provided during the Seminar to a wide audience.

Express their confidence that the results of the international seminar contribute to a better coordination of activities for further development of intermodal transport that can serve the dynamically developing trade and economic relations between the States of Europe, the Near and Middle East, Asia and other territories and increases the effectiveness of the Euro-Asian transport system as a whole.

Kyiv, 28 September 2004