

**THESSALONIKI JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT IN THE BSEC REGION**

**"Integrated intermodal and logistics solutions in the BSEC Region"**

(Thessaloniki, Greece, 25 November 2014)

We, the Ministers of Transport of the BSEC Member States, who met in Thessaloniki on 25 November 2014 in the framework of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Hellenic Republic of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC),

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** all the Declarations that have been signed by the Ministers of Transport in the BSEC region,

**RECOGNIZING** the UN transport Conventions and Agreements are key for facilitation of movement of goods, containers, passengers and vehicles through borders,

**AWARE** of the fact that intermodality is of fundamental importance for developing competitive alternatives to road transport and that interoperability between systems and technical harmonisation should be our first priorities,

**UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE OF** the introduction of a new intermodal transport model, which should be addressed as a huge task requiring long implementation period, research, development, pilot projects,

**RECOGNIZING** that intermodal transport policy needs a systemic approach, optimal use of the existing infrastructure, taking advantage of intelligent transport systems, more clear and measurable objectives and tools for follow-up,

**CONSIDERING** that new transshipment concepts and enhanced automation can reduce total cost for users by speeding up transfer between modes,

**HIGHLIGHTING** the key role that a network of freight villages and distribution centers could play in the optimization of the transport system, since terminals and nodes have the potentiality to function as interfaces between high volume transport corridors and low volume regional and local networks,

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that logistics clusters and cooperation between transport and terminals operators in the BSEC region could increase the opportunity for consolidated transport flows from different origins into common flows on the principal networks,

**NOTING** that intermodal terminals and transfer points are important interfaces within intermodal transport chains, while the quality of services at terminals and the

efficiency of terminal processes have a considerable influence on the quality, transport time and costs of the entire transport chain,

**AFFIRMING** that the logistics centers and freight villages have a potential to develop more value added services than ever before and to offer an opportunity to utilize intermodal transportation systems such as rail, road, sea and air combination,

**CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE** that the intermodal transport of agricultural products can have to support local and regional producers to access new markets,

**HAVE DECLARED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO:**

**CONTINUE** to make efforts for the development of a road map in order to create an integrated and multimodal regional transportation system, competitive in the global service market,

**ENHANCE** efforts on the elaboration of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Multimodal Ferry and Passenger Lines in the BSEC region, presented by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, with the view of its finalization and signing by the interested Member States,

**EXAMINE** the harmonisation of administrative practices and transport documents (CIM/SMGS, CIM, SMGS) in intermodal transport, e.g. by means of guidelines and exchange of information on the impact of various measures,

**ENCOURAGE** implementation by the interested Member States, of the Pilot Project on Introduction of the IVWC in the BSEC region.

**DEVELOP** an appropriate framework for logistics clusters and create a critical mass of actors, resources and competences in the BSEC region,

**EXPLORE** new IT solutions since the evolution in the field of ICT is continuous and the solutions provided to the intermodal transport freight community are constantly improving,

**SUPPORT** the research potential of the BSEC region in the transport sector by strengthening the role of clusters that associate companies, universities, research institutions and public authorities in the field of innovation,

**STRENGTHEN** the activities within the Task Force on studying possibilities regarding cooperation on intermodal transportation in the Black Sea region, established by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States at its 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Odessa on 21 June 2013,

**CONTINUE** the work on the finalization of the BSRH route and emphasize the importance to focus all efforts to the Action Plan on the project,

The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Hellenic Republic for its contribution to the promotion of transports in the BSEC region, for the warm hospitality extended to the delegations and the excellent organization of the meeting.