



**BAKY DECLARATION  
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT COOPERATION IN  
THE BLACK AND CASPIAN SEAS REGION**

**(Baky, 3 October 2003)**

The participants of the Meeting of Ministers of Transport of the Black and Caspian Seas region, held in Baky on 3 October 2003, within the framework of the BSEC Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

CONFIRMING their commitment towards the development of an efficient transport system contributing to the sustainable economic and social development in the region;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction the progress achieved in the development of transport cooperation among the countries of the Black and Caspian Seas region, aiming to the expansion of international trade and transport of goods, including energy resources, to the world markets, in particular, through the development of the Pan-European Transport Corridors crossing the region, Transport Corridors Europe-Caucasus-Asia, North-South and Black Sea Ring;

STRESSING that the growing international integration necessitates regional cooperation towards an integrated, interoperable and well-functioning Eurasian transport system;

CONSIDERING conflicts as a major impediment for development of both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region;

RECOGNIZING the significance of activities undertaken by the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), European Commission, European Conference of the Ministers of Transport (ECMT), Organization for Railways Cooperation, Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA (TRACECA IGC), Coordination Transport Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CTM CIS), UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), GUUAM (Organization comprising Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Moldova) and other international organizations and regional cooperation initiatives involved in the development of the transport network of the Black and Caspian Seas region and its integration within the European and Asian transport networks;

EMPHASIZING the role of the international conferences on transport which bring together Governmental agencies and the private sector and which facilitate the development and modernization of the transport infrastructure of Europe and Asia;

Annex III

NOTING with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the Transport Action Plan for the BSEC, the Basic Multilateral Agreement on Development of International Transport in the Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA), Intergovernmental Agreement on the Development of the Transport Corridor North-South, Joint UNECE-UNESCAP Project on Capacity Building on the Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links and other important documents in the field;

DESIRING to further promote the development of an integrated, efficient, safe and sustainable transport system in the Black and Caspian Seas region, connected to the European and Asian markets,

AGREED

- a) to follow the principles of transport cooperation set out in the Helsinki Declaration of 25 June 1997;
- b) to strengthen cooperation in transport aiming particularly at the development of integrated, multimodal transport networks and efficient transport services;
- c) to promote a better cooperation framework among international organizations, programs and initiatives in order to avoid duplication, create synergies and increase efficiency of their activities oriented at establishing a sound transport system in the region;
- d) to promote further harmonization of national transport legislations and regulations with the EU norms, provisions of international transport agreements and conventions, in particular those concluded under the auspices of the UNECE;
- e) to enhance the facilitation and harmonization of border-crossing procedures within the competence of transport authorities;
- f) to contribute to the elimination of administrative barriers towards the establishment of a favorable business and investment environment across the region;
- g) to encourage Public-Private Partnership (PPP) schemes such as Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), in order to attract private investments for the development and operation of transport infrastructure and services;

- h) to conclude, where it is appropriate, bilateral and multilateral agreements towards a sustainable, multimodal and interoperable transport system in the Black and Caspian Seas Region;
- i) to ameliorate transport passenger services with a view to promoting tourism between Europe and Asia;
- j) to assist in the establishment of an electronic database, aiming to facilitate transport processes;
- k) to cooperate towards ensuring the security and safety of transportation.

Annex III

The Participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the BSEC, European Commission, UNECE, UNESCAP, IGC TRACECA, SC Black Sea PETrA, SPECA and other organizations and programmes for their active involvement and assistance in the development of transport in the Black and Caspian Seas region.

They also expressed appreciation to the Minister of Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this international event in Baky, for the excellent organizational arrangements as well as for the cordiality and hospitality extended to them.

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