Current status and outlook for infrastructure upgrade and financing within the international transport corridor TRACECA

Speech presented by:

Mr. Mircea Ciopraga
Secretary General
of the PS IGC TRACECA
“Great Silk Road”
of the XXI century
Strategy for development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia for the period 2016-2026

The Intergovernmental Commission [IGC] TRACECA having held its Twelfth Annual Meeting on 1 June 2016, in Odessa, Ukraine,

- discussed the issues according to the adopted Agenda (Appendix 1);
- heard the report of the Presidency in the IGC TRACECA, the Republic of Turkey in the person of Mr. Burhan Dilek, Permanent Representative (National Secretary) of the PS IGC TRACECA in the Republic of Turkey on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the IGC TRACECA;
- heard the Report of Mr. Mircea Oprea, Secretary General of the PS IGC TRACECA, on the activities of the PS IGC TRACECA for the period between the Eleventh and the Twelfth Annual IGC TRACECA Meetings;
- heard the reports of the Parties to the “Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for the Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor” on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the IGC TRACECA, the implementation of the Strategy of the IGC TRACECA for development of the international transport corridor “Europe-the Caucasus-Asia” for the period up to 2018;

having considered the address by the Ukrainian Party on the practice of implementation of the upcoming mandate of the Chairmanship in the Intergovernmental Commission;

examined financial, institutional, legal, conceptual and other issues vital for further development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) and increase of its competitiveness;

in accordance with Article 8 of the “Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for the Development of the Europe-the Caucasus-Asia Corridor”

ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

1. On the implementation of the Strategy of the IGC TRACECA for development of the international transport corridor “Europe-the Caucasus-Asia” for the period up to 2015.

Having heard the Report on the implementation of the Strategy of the IGC TRACECA for development of the international transport corridor “Europe-the Caucasus-Asia” (TRACECA) for the period up to 2015 (Appendix 2), worked out by the Permanent Secretariat on the basis of the reports of the countries, data and materials of the EU-funded technical assistance regions, statistical and analytical information the IGC TRACECA Meeting adopted the Report and positively evaluated the activities carried out by the Parties regarding the achievement of aims and objectives of the TRACECA Strategy.

On approval of the Strategy for development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia for the period 2016-2026 elaborated on the basis of the Master Plan TRACECA and proposals of the Parties.

Having heard and discussed the Strategy for development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia for the period 2016-2026 elaborated on the basis of the TRACECA Master Plan (Appendix 3) the IGC TRACECA Meeting approved this strategic document for further development of the TRACECA corridor. The IGC made a decision that the TRACECA Master Plan is an Annex to the IGC Strategy and its inseparable part.
This is indisputably substantiated by the world practice. Reconstruction and upgrade of transport infrastructure facilities as well as building out on their basis of multifunctional complexes may become one of the trends of investments cooperation.

the attraction of domestic and foreign private investments to the transport sector needs favourable conditions basing on public-private partnerships mechanisms.
The international transport corridor “Europe-the Caucasus-Asia” (TRACECA) occupies a favourable geographic location, one part of it situating in Europe, the other – on the border with the East Asian countries, and offers goods owners as an alternative to intercontinental transoceanic corridor its overland routes passing through the countries of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea basins, the South Caucasus to Iran and Turkey ensuring exchange of commodities in the whole Eurasian continent.
BASIC MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPE-THE CAUCASUS-ASIA CORRIDOR TRACECA 1998
The tendency to dynamic growth of international trade volumes stimulates the activity aimed at

- optimization of traffic
- increase of transport efficiency
- promotion of sustainability of traffic in the region
More than 40 % from the budget were allocated to the support and development of transport infrastructure within the TRACECA corridor.
The construction of railway/road connections between Turkey and Georgia (Baku Tbilisi Kars project), as well as the port of Kuryk and construction of roads in the “East-West” connection in Kazakhstan
There were held two TRACECA Investment Forums with participation of concerned international investors and donors:

TRACECA Investment Forum - 2010

TRACECA Investment Forum - 2012

We are going to organize 3-rd TRACECA Investment Forum according to latest commitments discussed during PS IGC meeting held on 23/05/2017 in Bucharest.
PS IGC TRACECA signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce on 8th September 2017 in Xi’an, China as a part of One Belt One Road initiative.
China plans to construct 30 thousand kilometres of railways by 2020 in order to extend the total network up to 150 thousand km.

More than 530 billion USD will be allocated for the implementation of this large-scale project.
in September 2013 the Government of China announced the initialization of the project on creation of the “Silk Road Economic Belt” in the context of development of the large-scale international initiative named “One Belt, One Road”. A special fund in the size of 40 billion USD was offered for the implementation of this initiative.
let me point out that we welcome all the initiatives which favour strengthening of interregional transport dialogue, ensuring effective, reliable and safe international Eurasian transport connections.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

Mircea Ciopraga
TRACECA Secretary General

Our contact information:

Permanent Secretariat
Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA
Azerbaijan, Baku, Aliyarbekov 8/2, AZ 1005
Tel.: (+994 12) 598 27 18, (+994 12) 498 64 26

e-mail: office@ps.traceca-org.org
website: www.traceca-org.org