



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΠΙΜΕΛΗΤΗΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΜΕΤΑΦΟΡΩΝ
HELLENIC CHAMBERS TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Your Excellency, Mr. Belka, Executive Secretary of the UNECE

Your Excellency, Ambassador Verros, Permanent Representative of Greece in the United Nations at Geneva

Dear Mrs. Molnar, Director of the UNECE Transport Division

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and pleasure for me, on behalf of the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association and the Greek Transport Delegation, to address the opening of the Seminar on the UNECE Role in the development of Pan-European Transport, kindly organized by the UNECE Transport Division, especially for our Delegation.

I should like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude, to the UNECE and in particular to Mrs. Molnar for her positive response to our request for this Seminar, as well as to Mr. Adamantiadis and his colleagues in the Transport Division for their organizational efforts and contribution in preparing and holding the Seminar here in the Palais des Nations.

I should like also to thank, on behalf of all our Delegation, Ambassador Verros and his team in the Permanent Mission of Greece at Geneva, for their invaluable support in the organization and implementation of this important mission in Geneva and for putting it under the Greek Permanent Mission's auspices.

I should also like to express our gratitude to the Ambassador and his Wife for hosting at their house, in the most excellent and at the same time most friendly way, a reception on the occasion of our visit in Geneva.

The Hellenic Chambers Transport Association is a non-for profit organization established by the Greek Chambers aimed at contributing to the overall national efforts for the development and modernization of the Greek transport systems, their harmonization with those of the other countries in Europe and their integration in the Pan-European and international transport context.

Since its creation, in 1995, our Association has worked in close cooperation with the competent authorities of Greece, the European Union, Transport related National, European and International Organizations and bodies, as well as other European Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Our Association elaborated a number of focused studies, organized national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, round tables and promoted the exchange of experiences and sharing of know-how. Through these initiatives, it was made possible for us to identify the main obstacles hampering the smooth transport operations in Greece and the South Eastern Europe, to undertake concrete initiatives to overpass them, and make policy recommendations, some of which have been translated to National and European Union Policies and are currently implemented.

Our main concern was, and remains, how best our transport industry can address new and emerging challenges and explore opportunities in order that Greece's economy creates an enabling transport environment that would meet user's needs for modern, efficient, effective, sustainable and secure transport system, which, at the same time, would be part of an integrated pan-European and global transport chain.

Though the UNECE work in the field of transport may not be very well known to all the members of our Delegation, and even to a large part of the transport community in our country, for our Association this work is not unknown. Our paths met for the first time back in 1998, when a UNECE Transport Division representative attended an international Conference, jointly organized by our Association and the Russian Transport Ministry in Chochi, Russia. Later on, Mr. CAPEL FERRER, the then Director of the Transport Division, attended another European event organized by our Association and hosted by my Chamber in Chania, Crete. In the course of the last years we had in several occasions the opportunity to keep contact with you and your work through presentations made by your staff in international fora and events, as well as through visiting your website.

More recently, just a month ago, members of our Association, some of which are present in this room, attended a very important UNECE Conference on the Hinterland Connections of Seaports that was hosted by the Greek Ministry of Mercantile Marine, the Aegean and Island Policy in Piraeus.

Main topics in the agenda of our work currently and for the next years to come include the modernization of road transport operations, road traffic safety, transport of dangerous goods, seaports and their hinterland connections and finally intermodal transport and logistics.

The current mission, which is the first of its kind visiting Geneva, is aimed at assisting the transport community of our country better understand the developments and main challenges in the field of European and international transport.

This is the reason why we are here with you today, starting at the beginning of this week, with a visit and seminar at Verona Interporto and at the new Intermodal Terminal of Hupac, in Busto Gallarate, Italy. These visits and seminars in Italy were jointly organized with our longstanding partners UIRR and Europlatform, as well as the Italian and Suisse combined transport Companies CEMAT and Hupac.

From our visit to UNECE Transport Division, we expect to learn more from you and to get better insight on your work and contribution, which as we know, has been instrumental in promoting coordinated efforts by the International transport Community in creating the foundations for building a Harmonized, Integrated, Efficient, Effective, Sustainable and secure transport system in Europe and beyond.

Looking forward to listening the interesting presentation from all our Colleagues of the Transport Division, Once again, we thank you all for your hospitality and wish for a successful Seminar,
