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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Seventy-fifth session

Geneva, 26–28 February 2013

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

#### Ministerial meeting “Making the Euro-Asian Transport Network Operational”

## Euro-Asian Transport Links

### Second Ministerial Meeting

### Draft Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links<sup>1</sup>

~~Done and signed~~ Signed in Geneva, on 26 February 2013, in the English, French and Russian languages, the three of which both versions being authentic and valid

We, *the Ministers of Transport* or their representatives from [NAMES OF COUNTRIES xxx], ~~meeting in Geneva on 26 February 2013,~~

*Considering* the potential to diversify freight transport routes between Europe and Asia and increase the use of existing and projected inland transport capacities,

*Aware* that the development of efficient, economically justified, safe and more secure Euro-Asian inland transport routes could provide alternative or complementary transport connections to the maritime transport, facilitate existing and future trade and cargo flows between Europe and Asia, and facilitate integration of national economies in the global economy,

*Recognizing* the importance of Euro-Asian inland transport routes in facilitating access to markets, economic opportunities and social services to a number of countries spanning these routes, including landlocked and transit developing countries, in a manner that could significantly contribute to economic development, reduction of poverty and increase in the stability of economic prospects in the countries,

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<sup>1</sup> All amendments as compared to the original document ECE/TRANS/2013/1 are underlined; deletions are in strikethrough.

*Contributing* effectively to the tenth anniversary of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action on transit transport cooperation,

*Emphasising* the importance of creating competitive conditions for land transportation between Europe and Asia and *mindful* of the need to increase the volume of public (national and international) and private investments in the development of transport infrastructure, to enhance efficiency in transport systems, and make progress in reforming ~~of~~ the transport sector which would contribute to economic growth and employment,

~~Committed~~ *Decided* to ~~the~~ facilitate international land transport and removal of the remaining physical and non-physical barriers along the Euro-Asian inland transport routes, at key transport nodes and transshipment points including maritime ports,

*Considering* that the main Euro-Asian rail and road transport routes, together with a number of priority transport infrastructure projects along these routes, have been identified by the experts of participating member States in the EATL project as reflected in the Final Report of Phase II of the project,

*Convinced* that the continuation of the UNECE Euro-Asian transport links project would further foster implementation of identified priority projects as well as other concrete results achieved in Phases I and II of the project, including the fruitful collaboration and cooperation among participating UNECE ~~m~~Member States,

*Recognizing* the need to consider and implement policy recommendations and address remaining obstacles in the transport sector of our countries as suggested in the Final Report of the EATL Project,

*We endorse the priority Euro-Asian inland transport routes adopted in Phase I and new routes identified in Phase II of the EATL project and are willing ~~commit~~ to work together towards their implementation through actions such as:*

(a) ~~Aiming to d~~*Developing* and ~~enhancing~~ favourable financial conditions to ensure sustainable and long-term financing of priority transport infrastructure projects in order to integrate them into medium- and long-term investment programmes adopted at the national level;

(b) Fostering and sustaining coordination and collaboration with other participating ~~m~~Member States, international organizations and International Financial Institutions as well as other stakeholders from the public and private sector to ensure that additional financial resources for completion of identified priority projects are made available;

(c) Orderly and systematic removal of the remaining non-physical barriers along the Euro-Asian transport routes crossing our countries;

(~~d~~e) Supporting the establishment of an adequate mechanism to ensure continued monitoring and the follow-up activities of the project, and the most appropriate modalities to use the existing structures and available resources of the UNECE; and

(~~e~~f) Supporting further implementation and continuation of the EATL project in a new Phase III (2013–2017) with clearly defined targets and measurable objectives and ensuring the necessary resources for its timely implementation;

*We invite other United Nations member countries willing to be associated with the EATL Project to join in a new Phase III (2013–2017).*

*We call on all involved parties to continue firm commitments to the implementation of the agreed EATL recommendations.*

*We invite the potential donors to consider supporting the new Phase III of the EATL Project.*