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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

Done and signed in Geneva, on 26 February 2013 in English and Russian language of which both versions are authentic

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 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,

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 reform of the transport sector which would contribute to economic growth and employment,

Committed to the 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 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 commit to work together towards their implementation through actions such as:

(a) 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 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;

(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

(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 UN member countries willing to be associated with the EATL Project to join in a new Phase III (2013–17).

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.