

ACTION PLAN
on
Facilitation of Movement of Goods and People
Between Asia and Europe

1. Following the Hanoi Declaration on the Closer ASEM Economic Partnership at the Fifth Asia Europe Meeting held in Hanoi on 8th -9th October 2004, ASEM partners committed themselves to fostering a closer ASEM economic partnership, including enhanced cooperation in the field of transport. Following this, the First ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting took place in Vilnius on 19th – 20th October 2009 under the initiative of Lithuania, where the Vilnius Declaration was adopted and an Action Plan was agreed to be outlined.

2. The Second ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting was held in Chengdu, China on 25–26 October 2011. Transport ministers of ASEM member countries had in-depth discussions on topics relevant to “Asia-Europe Connect: Green, Secure, Efficient”, and constructive dialogues with the industries in particular, and identified the targets and tasks of Asia-Europe transport cooperation.

3. This Action Plan outlines the further development of cooperation between ASEM member countries, exchange of good practice, statistical data and identification of beneficent cooperation areas. The Action Plan covers all transport modes and provides to authorities the guidelines for further facilitation of trade and movement of goods and people between the continents by creating green, safe, secure, efficient and smooth hard and soft transport infrastructure.

4. Taking into consideration the requirements of facilitating the movement of goods and people between Asia and Europe, and acknowledging the necessity of transport infrastructure development and, where appropriate, harmonization of bilateral and regional action plans of involved countries (as well as on transcontinental range), the ASEM Ministers of Transport decided to:

- 1) seek to promote the liberalization in transport services, products and investments, and partake actively in all trade negotiations (WTO, regional and bilateral);
- 2) promote the world-wide implementation of standards for safety, security and environmental protection through bilateral and multilateral cooperation (with the International Civil Aviation Organization, International Maritime Organization, Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail, Organization for Cooperation between Railways, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, etc.);
- 3) jointly study and consider long-term Asia-Europe transport development plans, and identify medium-and-long-term priority projects, while making full use of the coordinative role of the European Commission, the Secretariat of Association of Southeast Asian Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and United Nations Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

- 4) seek to promote integrated Euro-Asian inland transport and enhance air connectivity between Asia and Europe, the Euro-Asian road and railway links, seaborne links and airport hubs by using the concepts of intermodality and multimodal transport and liberalizing air services between the two continents;
- 5) strengthen exchanges and cooperation among ASEM Member countries in road and rail safety, adopting effective transport safety measures, including formulation of standards, application of technologies, development and training of human resources, sharing of best practice, and education;
- 6) address the needs for safe and secure transport of goods and people between Asia and Europe; take an active part in relevant work under the framework of the United Nations; work to remove the weak links, where appropriate, in the security of supply chains; strengthen the exchange of experience and capacity building for self-defense and best practices for ships; and work to prevent and combat piracy and armed robbery against ships via coordination and cooperation;
- 7) commit to continuous improvement and development of optimal transport systems in order to minimize the consequences of natural disasters, and strengthen post-disaster recovery capacity building;
- 8) adopt concrete policies and administrative measures and seek best solutions for continuously easing the negative impacts on transport on ecology and the environment while at the same time enabling efficient transport; and strengthen technical cooperation and technology transfer with a view to reducing the emission of greenhouse gases;
- 9) promote energy efficient mass transit systems for livable low-carbon communities, and reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and travel times by wide use of information and communications technology (ICT), intelligent transport systems (ITS), urban planning and sustainable mobility strategies;
- 10) promote Intelligent Transport System (ITS) technology deployment worldwide, and establish research and innovation partnerships at international level, which can contribute to the efficiency of transportation;
- 11) promote the construction of a seamless and efficient supply chain logistics network and logistics information service network, and carry out technical exchanges on the standards for information networks and explore the possibility of the interoperability between Asia-Europe networks on the basis of the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET);
- 12) find a common understanding of the nature of the problems in different parts of Europe and Asia, on which acceptable measures can be agreed; promote the access to and comprehensive implementation of international conventions regarding the issue of border crossing

procedures; and seek to harmonize the documentation and legal frameworks on the prioritized transport networks between Europe and Asia;

- 13) promote investment in the construction of transport infrastructure for improved Asia-Europe connections;
- 14) pursue structural changes to enable coastal and inland shipping and rail to compete effectively and take a significantly greater proportion of medium and long-distance freight and passengers; and
- 15) strive – in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization and other international organizations – for the universal application and enforcement of high standards of safety, security, environmental protection and working conditions on board ships, and for elimination of piracy and armed robbery against ships.

5. All the above-mentioned actions will be jointly promoted at bilateral, regional and ASEM levels. Special working groups will be set up, if necessary, for organizing and implementing the relevant work.

6. Ministers have decided to assign the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) to supervise the Action Plan and to improve it when necessary, and submit the results to the Ministers for consideration.

7. The Action Plan was reviewed and approved at the Second ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting on 26th October 2011.