

Declaration of the 2nd ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting On Green, Secure and Efficient Asia-Europe Connection

(CHENGDU DECLARATION)

1. WE, Ministers responsible for transport of ASEM member countries and representatives of the European Commission and the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered at the 2nd ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (2nd ASEM TMM) in Chengdu, China, on 24-25 October 2011. H. E. Mr. ZHANG Dejiang, Vice Premier of the State Council of China attended the opening ceremony. The 2nd ASEM TMM was co-chaired by H. E. Mr. LI Shenglin, Minister of Transport of China, and H. E. Mr. Eligijus MASIULIS, Minister of Transport and Communications of Lithuania. We delivered key-note speeches and had in-depth discussions on the topics relating to the theme of this Meeting, i. e. 'Asia-Europe Connect: Green, Secure and Efficient', and had constructive dialogues with the industries in particular. We have hereby declared:

2. We consider that, for ASEM member countries, the population exceeds half of the world's total, trade has occupied 60 per cent of international trade volume, and GDP summed up to more than half of that of the globe. The establishment of a green, secure and efficient transport connection system between Asia and Europe is of great significance to the promotion of the economic prosperity and the sustainable development of Asia and Europe. Therefore, ASEM TMM provides an important platform and opportunity for equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two continents.

3. We note progress towards achieving the goals of the 1st ASEM TMM, especially the facilitation of trade between Asian and European countries by developing green, secure and efficient transport systems that aim at realizing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Green Transport

4. We stress the importance of promoting green transport to the sustainable development of the Asia-Europe region. We should adopt concrete policies and administrative measures and seek best solutions for continuously reducing the negative impact of transport on ecology and the environment, and reducing the emission of greenhouse gases while at the same time enabling efficient transport. Developed and developing member countries of ASEM should exchange best examples of the development, promotion, transfer and application of low carbon technologies, policies and regulations, aimed at protecting the environment and ensuring the sustainable long term growth of the Asia-Europe region.

5. We regard the promotion of multimodal freight transport as an effective way to implement energy efficient freight transport, reduce energy

consumption and build green supply chains. Multimodal links should be improved. We will endeavour to develop energy efficient transport means, such as rail transport, inland shipping and coastal shipping. In this regard, we will strengthen Asia-Europe cooperation and exchanges in rail transport and in inland shipping policies and technologies.

6. We think it is essential to develop energy efficient mass transit systems for livable low-carbon communities. The continuous development of mass transit systems, expanded mass transit corridors, wide use of information and communications technology (ICT), intelligent transport systems (ITS), urban planning and sustainable mobility strategies can improve safety and quality of life in the rapidly urbanizing Asia-Europe region while also reducing energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and travel times. We should prioritize cooperation in this area and make joint efforts to identify best practice for reducing energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and travel times.

Safe and Secure Transport

7. We reiterate the importance of transport safety and security, which is the pre-condition for trade facilitation and movement of people and goods across the Asia-Europe region and the world. We wish to highlight the importance of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2011-2020. We should increase rail and road safety efforts in our respective member countries, in particular. We should also strengthen exchanges and cooperation between and among ASEM member countries in rail and road safety and security. While taking protecting human lives as the main priority, we should adopt effective and harmonized transport safety measures, including formulation of common standards, application of technologies, training and capacity building of human resources as well as sharing of best practices and education, to enhance road and rail transport safety and security.

8. We commit to enhance the security measures for all modes of transport on the basis of the security work already accomplished in maritime transport, ports and aviation. ASEM member countries will follow the standards and recommendations of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO), and cooperate with these organizations. Moreover, we recommend cooperation with the International Working Group on Land Transport Security (IWGLTS). We will explore cooperation models between Asia and Europe for maritime, aviation and land transport safety and security while strengthening capacity building for countries in need, and working to remove the weak links in the security of supply chains.

9. We appreciate the cooperative efforts made by the relevant countries in Asia and Europe to prevent and combat piracy and armed robbery against ships. We intend to participate actively in, and support, relevant work under the framework of the United Nations and other relevant agencies to coordinate and cooperate in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. ASEM

member countries will follow the best practices recommended by the IMO to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in capacity building for self defense and rescue.

10. We consider that transport has played a key role in the preparedness, resilience and response to tragic natural disasters. We stress the importance of learning from past experience, exchanging experience and strengthening cooperation in areas such as risk minimization strategies, new early warning systems, risk management capacity, search and rescue capacity, disaster prevention and mitigation, and post-disaster re-construction. We will commit to continuous improvement and development of optimal transport systems in order to better respond to future natural disasters and adapt to climate change. We should try to reduce the risks of natural disasters, strengthen and improve post-disaster recovery capacity building, aiming at minimizing the loss caused by disasters.

Efficient Transport

11. We realize that it is essential to jointly study and consider long-term Asia-Europe transport development plans, in order to establish an efficient Asia-Europe integrated transport system covering various transport modes including road, railway, aviation and shipping, identify medium and long-term priority projects, and promote the construction of a seamless and efficient supply chain logistics network and logistics information service network.

12. We recognize the significance of expanding investment in the construction of transport infrastructure for Asia-Europe connection, taking into account the need of archipelagic states, by diversifying financing channels and modes, and utilizing foreign resources, such as international financial institutes, PPP-Projects, the introduction of charges or tolls, as appropriate, so as to establish an efficient and concrete transport infrastructure network and realize the connectivity among ASEM member countries.

13. We think it is necessary, for the purpose of effective Asia-Europe connections, including the archipelagic states, to improve bilateral and multilateral legal frameworks for road, rail, maritime and air transport, especially the legal framework for transit transport, sea-land combined transport and multi-modal transport, and realize transport facilitation. At the same time, we should adopt effective measures to remove non-physical barriers, where appropriate, in road, rail, maritime and air transport, with a view to facilitating exchanges of people and goods between Asia and Europe, and pushing forward the growth of transport and tourism so as to promote the closer economic relations between Asia and Europe.

14. We understand the critical role of the development and application of information technology and the construction of public information service network platforms in the growth of modern logistics. We intend to carry out

technical exchanges on the standards for information networks and explore the possibility of interoperability between Asia-Europe networks on the basis of the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET).

15. We recognize that global supply chains should encompass the effective connection of various transport modes and cover goods, conveyances, facilities, information services and hubs within the entire transport field which requires better integration among all the relevant parties to ensure seamless connection and enhanced facilitation across all modes. We should increase cooperation with ICAO, IMO, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and World Customs Organization (WCO) in addressing issues related to global supply chains while strengthening cooperation among ASEM member countries.

16. We believe that there is a great need for guidance and coordination from the European Commission, ASEAN Secretariat, UNESCAP, UNECE, Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail and Organization for Cooperation between Railways with the support of international financial institutions, the participation of enterprises, industrial associations and research institutes, and joint promotion via multilateral and bilateral channels, to support the actions outlined in this Declaration.

17. We express the wish to agree on specific actions, measures and initiatives so as to promote closer Asia-Europe transport cooperation. We should, with the guidance of the Action Plan, coordinate principles for transport policies, share best practices and statistics and carry out specific implementation actions.

18. We approve the Action Plan proposed by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), ask SOM to be responsible for the promotion and implementation of the Action Plan, and submit a progress report to the 3rd ASEM TMM.

19. We decide to hold the 3rd ASEM TMM in 2013 in one of the European ASEM member countries (venue to be determined).

Done in Chengdu, China, on 26th October, 2011.