

Statement

on behalf of H. E. Gagik BEGLARYAN, Minister of Transport and Communication of
the Republic of Armenia,
at the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA

Dear Mr. Chairman, Colleagues,

Let me start with welcoming the participants of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission TRACECA and expressing appreciation to the Turkish Presidency for the effective work performed during the Presidency cycle. I also want to thank the TRACECA Permanent Secretariat and the Secretary General for the continuous efforts and unceasing devotion to the cause of cooperation. And of course I would like to thank the host country and the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine for organizing today's meeting so efficiently.

I believe that during our meeting today we'll have constructive and fruitful discussions and make decisions that will contribute to further development of the Corridor.

Armenia has always paid thorough attention to the transport infrastructure and the improvement of its sectors. As one of the founding countries of TRACECA, the Republic of Armenia highly values all the justified measures for reforms in the field of transport. We view the progress in this sector as our achievement in the long-term objectives within our main strategies directed at strengthening the infrastructures to ensure safer transport and stronger economy.

With this in mind, I would like to very briefly refer to a couple of specific transport projects, which are of high priority to us and in the region.

One of the most important infrastructure projects is the construction of the North-South Road Corridor implemented by the joint financing of the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Eurasian Development Bank and others. Tranche 1 of the Project has already been completed and put into

operation. The works on the implementation of following tranches of the project are underway and moving forward according to the envisaged time-frames.

In parallel, works are being conducted on the other sections of the Corridor. The feasibility study for the road in the South towards the Armenia-Iran state border, and the initial design of the road will be completed soon.

There are a fair number of roads currently in the country that are in need of construction and rehabilitation. Tenders have been duly announced and the projects are now in the stage of procurement. We are expecting to finalize the financial aspects as well and will most probably receive the State Budget allocation in this coming fall to move on with the civil works.

Considerable work has been already done towards strengthening the railway capacity not only in the territory of Armenia, but also in the region. To this end, the Southern Armenia Railway Project has been launched, which is also known as the Armenia-Iran Railway. It will serve as the shortest and most reliable connection to TRACECA and the North-South International Corridor. This railway is an important missing link to the Persian Gulf and the Black Sea ports for the goods transport.

We are currently in the process of active discussions with the neighboring countries aiming to secure the Project support. Practically about a month ago while participating in the working group meetings in Tehran we elaborated on the Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor (Persian Gulf – Black Sea Corridor), where four TRACECA member states, along with Greece, are parties too.

It's also worth mentioning that amendments are being made permanently to the field legislation and the Government of Armenia attaches high importance to timely update of the relevant legislative documents. At this point, the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Armenia has developed a new set of documents comprising all the necessary changes and additions to the existing legislation and submitted it to the Parliament of RA for approval.

Dear colleagues,

The agenda of today's meeting suggests taking stock of what we have done and blueprinting our future activities. Speaking on important topics let me start with a couple of words on the Strategy of IGC TRACECA for development of the international transport corridor “Europe-the Caucasus-Asia” for the period up to 2015. This was a major undertaking of that period of time and much has been done to create a solid basis for the efficient implementation of the Strategy for the period of 2016-2020. The document is well-prepared and I believe that it will target our long-term goals after its approval.

Same goes for the Plan of Measures for the Implementation of the Concept of Development of International Road Traffic along the Transport Corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia, Increase of Competitiveness and Attractiveness of TRACECA Road Routes. We have already reached a certain level, where we need to fortify our achievements and move forward to even more complex objectives.

When it comes to the “TRACECA Multilateral Permits”, we are inclined to believe that they go a long way. In the meanwhile, there has not really been the need for us to use them so far. In fact, Armenia’s long-term goal is to achieve the permit-free regime for transportation, but I am certain that until then the TRACECA multilateral permits will prove to be productive and further activate the transport flow in the TRACECA region.

Being a land-locked country with limited access to maritime transportation, Armenia will keep supporting the TRACECA Regional Action Strategy on Maritime Safety and Security and Environmental Protection. We fully understand how important these priority actions are and the necessity to supervise the impact on environmental protection, so we hope to bring our own input in it as much as possible.

Armenia supports Ukraine’s accession to the Agreement on the development of Multi-modal Transport TRACECA and is ready for continuous and fruitful

cooperation.

I would also like to highlight our recent cooperation within the framework of EU Technical Assistance, which I personally would assess as highly productive. Specifically TRACECA Regional Road Safety Action Plan for the Road Safety II project. We have jointly developed the draft Action Plan on Road Safety for 2016-2020, which will serve as the primary document at the Ministry of Transport and Communication, Road Police and the National Road Safety Council when organizing and executing the works on ensuring the safe and sound road traffic in Armenia. Taking this opportunity I would like to thank Mr. Ross for his own input in our progress with this project.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to thank again the host country for the warm hospitality, the TRACECA Permanent Secretariat and for their joint efforts to ensure smooth and constructive work. I would also like to thank my colleagues who will no doubt provide their valuable contribution to our discussions today. I wish you all a fruitful and productive working day.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Speech delivery: Mr. Gagik GRIGORYAN

Head of Staff, MoTC of RA / TRACECA National Secretary