

**TWELVE ANNUAL MEETING OF IGC TRACECA**  
**Odessa, June 1, 2016**

**STATEMENT**

OF MR. DIMITAR TUCHKOV, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA IN ODESSA

**DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN,**  
**DEAR MR. CIOPRAGA,**  
**DEAR MINISTERS,**  
**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Please allow me first on behalf of Mr. Ivaylo Moskovski, Minister of transport, information technology and communications and on my behalf to address all the participants on the occasion of the official opening of the Twelve Annual meeting of the IGC TRACECA. I would like also to thank all the organizers of this event and to share that is a great honor to be present at this meeting.

During the period between the two annual meetings of the IGC we have worked for the implementation of the decisions taken in Istanbul in 2015 and our country participated actively in the activities of TRACECA and implementation and realization of the strategic documents. The National Secretariat of TRACECA in Bulgaria works closely with the Permanent Secretariat and the member states to take necessary actions for implementing the resolutions of IGC.

Modernization of the infrastructure and achievement of interoperability with other countries as part of Trans-European transport network are one of the main priorities of our transport policy. In this regard, Bulgaria is investing a significant amount of the European funding in railway and road infrastructure projects along the Orient/East-Med corridor.

I would like to mention some of the national transport priorities which are also of importance for the TRACECA corridor:

- Efficient maintenance and modernization of transport infrastructure;
- Transport infrastructure development through concession;
- Safety and security of the transport system;
- Accessible and environmentally friendly transport.

Last year the Ministry of Transport identified different projects for development of transport infrastructure, which we believe will contribute for achievement of reliable and seamless freight transport between Central Asia and Europe through Bulgaria. Some of them are: Restoration of Ruse – Varna railway line; modernization and construction of sections of Hemus Motorway,

Black sea Highway, Modernization of Sofia – Pernik – Radomir railway line, construction of Tunnel under Shipka pass.

In addition to those projects, we foresee the preparation of concession procedures for a number of infrastructure objects, including:

- Sofia Airport
- Varna Central Railway Station
- Intermodal Terminal Plovdiv.

During the last programming period of the Operational Program on Transport in Bulgaria, 242 km of railway lines were rehabilitated, as well as 142 km of highways constructed. These achievements are relevant to the TRACECA region as they create linkages with the countries of Central and East Europe, as well as with the Caucasus and Central Asia.

**Dear ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to share the belief of the Bulgarian side that the Transport Corridor TRACECA will become more and more attractive and competitive and the decisions which we will adopt today, especially the approval of the Strategy for development of the international transport corridor Europe-the Caucasus-Asia for the period 2016-2026 will contribute to further strengthening of our efforts toward the integration of the TRACECA corridor with the Trans-European Transport Network and toward seamless trade and transport system in order to strengthen mutually advantageous economic and trade cooperation.

**Dear Mr. Chairman,**

I would like to wish every success to the chairmanship of Ukraine in the fulfillment of the decisions of the 12th annual Meeting of ICG TRACECA.

Finally, I would like to wish to all the participants, a successful and fruitful work!

Thank you for your attention!