

**Dear Ministers,
Dear National Secretaries,
Distinguished participants,**

Let me on behalf of the IGC TRACECA Chairman in Office, H.E. Ahmet ARSLAN welcome all the participants and guests of the 12th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission and bring to you a brief information on the activities of TRACECA during chairmanship of the Republic of Turkey in the IGC and on the latest transport projects of Turkey which also enhance TRACECA Corridor.

It was a big honor for Turkey to be the Chair country from 29 January 2015 until today. As we did since 2002, We declared the importance of TRACECA in every platform and tried to attract authorities, countries etc. by underlying that TRACECA aiming to provide shortest and most reliable multimodal transport in East-West axis, in other words modern Silk Road is an important part of our trade providing the trade flow and transport between Asia and Europe countries.

During our presidency, once again we strongly find out that the technical infrastructure projects which were implemented within TRACECA are not enough and we strongly advise to member countries to put their efforts for development of TRACECA Corridor.

To create new opportunities in TRACECA Corridor, these should be priorities:

- 1) The infrastructure of the transit corridors should be renewed and improved
- 2) Common precautions should be taken to harmonize and to speed up the transport and border passings.
- 3) Should give importance to railway investments in region countries.
- 4) The number of the logistic centers should be increased.

Distinguished participants,

Herein, I just want to thank Mr. Secretary General for his efforts in implementing decisions of the 11th IGC especially on preparing TRACECA Strategy and actions to implement the TRACECA permits system for international road freight traffic.

Mr. Secretary General will inform you about the activities of TRACECA in implementing the decisions of the 11th IGC. I do not want to repeat him and take your time.

As I will not have any other chance in this meeting, with your permission I want to draw you a picture regarding the projects of Turkey especially the ones which will enhance TRACECA Corridor.

Turkey put its efforts for the sake of the Europe-Asia transport links and for using the transport potential.

We give priority to complete the missing links on the main axis which serve for the international traffic and especially elimination of the border crossings.

With this aim, we have completed many projects which are also important for TRACECA Corridor and we continue on doing.

ROAD TRANSPORT

First of all, I want to take your attention to our **road transport** network which is in total 66.244 km. (sixty six thousand two hundred forty four)

One of the mega projects in road transport is **North Marmara Motorway Project** (including 3rd Bridge-Yavuz Sultan Selim) which is the second largest BOT project after İstanbul-Izmir Motorway Project.

- 2,5 Billion US Dollars will be invested in the project.
- Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge will be the third bridge on the İstanbul Strait.
- There will be 4 two-line highways and a two-line metro on the bridge.

- It will be completed in August 2016.

3-Storey Grand İstanbul Tunnel Project is also one of the mega projects of Turkey. It is the first 3-storey tunnel comprising of 2 two-way road lines and

There will be a two-way metro line. Approximate project cost is 12.2 billion USD. It is planned to be built via BOT model.

RAILWAY NETWORK

Turkey also strengthens its **Railway network** day by day.

-1.805 (one thousand eight hundred five) km of railway has been constructed since 2004

-3.057 (3 thousand fifty seven) km is under construction

Additionally we are constructing high-speed railway lines to carry passengers and freight in order to reduce transport costs, while increase competitiveness.

In this context, about 460 (four hundred sixty) km of the planned high-speed train lines are under construction; approximately 560 (five hundred sixty) km of is in bidding phase, while more than 12 thousand km is in the project stage.

The other mega project which is already in operation is **Marmaray project** connecting Europe and Asia. And as all you know Turkey is part of the **Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Project** which is an important part of the modern Silk Road.

As I underlined in the beginning of my speech the number of the **logistic centers** should be increased. In this regard, Turkey did a lot!

- The number of logistic centers 20
- In operation 7
- Under construction 6
- Total amount of freight capacity (in 20 logistic centers) 34,2 million ton

Distinguished participants,

AIR TRANSPORT

Air transport is the other mode of transport which develops 3 times more than world average.

We can see this development in numbers. For instance, Flight points for international transport in 2003 was 60 points but when we come to 2015 it is 261 points.

3rd Airport Project

As you all may aware, we are building 3rd Airport in İstanbul with BOT model.

This prestigious project will be the largest airport of the world with the 150 million passenger/year capacity. Investment cost of the Project is 10.2 billion Euros. Operation duration is 25 years.

MARITIME SECTOR

Turkey surrounded by sea from its 3 parts give great importance to the development of maritime sector. The amount of cargo handled in our ports increased by 119% in 2015 as compared to the amount in 2003.

I want to focus on 2 of the projects in maritime sector which will serve for TRACECA Corridor.

One of them is **Çandarlı Container Port**.

- Construction : on going
- In 2023 freight capacity (intended) : 5 million TEU
- So far, with an investment 300 million TL, infrastructure construction of the project has been completed.
- It will be among Europe's 10 largest transit ports
- It will be an important gateway of Turkey to global markets
- Final capacity : **12 Million TEU/Year**

The other project is **Filyos Port**.

- Final capacity : 25 Milyon Ton/year (700 bin TEU container)**

- Predicted cost : 870 Million Dollars**

- Planned to offer intermodal transport services in the western Black Sea in the north-south axis
- For the establishment of industrial facilities, which could be convenient for economic development of the region.

Lastly, the “**Canal İstanbul Project**” is a very attractive project in maritime transport. An artificial waterway will be constructed between the Black Sea and Marmara Sea to ease the vessel traffic in the İstanbul Strait which is no-alternative passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. We attach huge importance to this Project and continue working on it as the “Most Crazy Project” of Turkey. Once this Canal is opened, İstanbul Strait will be closed to tanker traffic and two peninsulas and an island will be created in İstanbul.

Turkey surrounded by sea from its 3 parts give great importance to the development of maritime sector. Once again I want to thank Secretary General as working in harmony with us during our Presidency. I also want to thank Ukraine for welcoming and hosting us in this beautiful city, Odessa. Also wish them success during their presidency. I wish all of us success in this important meeting and I hope we will have fruitful results in the end to take TRACECA one more step ahead.