



**FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION TRACECA**
Sofia / Bulgaria, 2-3 May 2006

**ПЯТОЕ ЕЖЕГОДНОЕ ЗАСЕДАНИЕ
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННОЙ КОМИССИИ ТРАСЕКА**
г. София / Болгария, 2-3 мая 2006 г.

SOFIA DECLARATION

The Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) TRACECA at its Fifth Annual Meeting (Conference) on 2-3 May 2006 in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria,

pursuing the principles of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Corridor (hereinafter referred to as the Basic Agreement) and **guided** by its provisions,

affirming once again its adherence to the spirit, values and messages of the Brussels Declaration of 1993 and the Declaration of the Baku Summit of 1998, as well as sharing the statements expressed in the declarations of the IGC TRACECA, adopted at its previous annual meetings,

highly **appreciating** positive results of the Tacis TRACECA Programme activities and support of the European Union (EU) being granted under the framework of this Programme,

taking into account the involvement of TRACECA countries in preparation processes towards the implementation of the new European Neighbourhood Policy and welcoming the EU intentions to enhance its cooperation with these countries to further structural reforms of the transport sector and creation of a functioning transport market, including development of major axes linked with the trans-European transport network,

welcoming the determination of the Parties to the Basic Agreement to endeavour to support the institutional strengthening of TRACECA, as an instrument of international cooperation for effective realisation of strategic objectives of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor development,

hereby declares:

Adoption of the Strategy of the Intergovernmental Commission of TRACECA for Development of the International Transport Corridor "Europe-Caucasus-Asia" for the period up to 2015 is evidence of persuasion of the Basic Agreement Parties of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia corridor potential and the necessity in close cooperation with the European Union to pursue coordinated transport policy aimed at promotion of modern transport communication of all kinds between Europe and Asia.

IGC TRACECA acknowledges the importance of its further institutional strengthening as it is envisaged in the Basic Agreement. Following the logic of development of the TRACECA organisational structures established on the basis of international agreements and internal regulations proceeding from attainment of financial independence as well as based on all pros and cons, IGC TRACECA continues activities towards its development as an international organisation.

IGC TRACECA encourages the enhanced activities of the Basic Agreement following the logic of the corridor development through joining of the third countries to the Multilateral Agreement. Besides, in reply to the official statements of the countries and international organisations showing interest in closer cooperation, IGC TRACECA introduced the observer status for the third countries which have a direct interest in the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Corridors at its meetings.

IGC TRACECA expresses its satisfaction with outcomes of the Fifth Annual Meeting and acknowledges the importance of the decisions made.

Participants of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission of TRACECA express their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the high level of the organisation of the Conference and hospitality received.