



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



ASIA-EUROPE MEETING

**The Declaration of the 4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting
on
Bridging Asia and Europe through Integrated Transport Connectivity and
Synergized Regional Strategic Plans**

Bali, 27 September 2017

BALI DECLARATION

We, Ministers responsible for transport of ASEM Member Countries, the European Union (EU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), international transport organizations, business leaders of transport and logistics sector, gathered at the 4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM4) in Bali, Indonesia on 26-28 September 2017 which was chaired by the Minister for Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, are:

- 1. EMPHASIZING** the vision expressed by the Leaders of ASEM Partners in the 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 15-16 July 2016 for enhanced connectivity which become the current ASEM's Priority in all its dimensions - including transport sector, as well as the provisions of the Declarations of the ASEM TMM1 in Vilnius, Lithuania on 19-20 October 2009, ASEM TMM2 in Chengdu, China on 24-25 October 2011 and ASEM TMM3 in Riga, Latvia on 29-30 April 2015;
- 2. ACKNOWLEDGING** ASEM as a strategic platform for fostering cooperation between Asia and Europe, which plays a crucial role in enhancing the connectivity of people, trade, transport and investment throughout the regions;
- 3. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** the contribution and significance of transport sector for the development of global economy and increased prosperity of ASEM's citizens;
- 4. UNDERLINING** the importance of promoting and enhancing transport connectivity through the development of integrated transport systems, synergizing regional transport strategic plans, and sustainable transport initiatives;
- 5. EMPHASIZING** the important role of private sector as strategic partners of ASEM TMM in promoting and developing infrastructure in the two regions including its bridging role for financing in investing strategic transport projects;

6. FURTHER UNDERLINING the challenges encountered by small economies, landlocked, least developed countries, island, archipelagic, and geographically-peripheral countries and regions including remote and outer-most areas in enhancing their transport corridors and networks to facilitate the integration of these countries into the regional and global economy;

7. RECOGNIZING the progress made in the development of various regional transport strategic plans to strengthen the coordination towards enhancing the transport connectivity between Asia and Europe which also aims to realize sustainable transport initiatives in accordance with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

8. FURTHER RECOGNIZING on the development of country's initiatives, regional initiatives and intercontinental initiatives in Asia and Europe in strengthening transport connectivity and facilitation such as Global Maritime Fulcrum, the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (the Belt and Road) and others;

9. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of achieving sustainable transport system through the development of safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally sound transport connectivity, supported by the application of innovative technologies and trained human resources in conformity with international standards as well as applicable United Nations' legal instruments and agreements in the all area of transport;

10. STRESSING that improving transport connectivity in Asia and Europe should be supported by integrated intermodal and multimodal transport system namely aviation, maritime, rail and road transport, in order to facilitate greater movement of goods, services, people and investment;

HAVE DECLARED our readiness to:

1. REAFFIRM the important role of ASEM TMM and the importance to follow up commitments made in ASEM TMM for a stronger and enhanced ASEM partnership in all the field of transport;

2. CONTINUE the work to strengthen cooperation among all ASEM's relevant stakeholders aiming towards the development and improvement of an integrated transport system to bridge Asia and Europe to facilitate mobility of people, goods, services and investment through bilateral and multilateral platforms;

3. INTRODUCE a strategic plan for the development and enhancement of transport corridors and routes between Asia and Europe through adopting a synergetic approach that integrates regional strategic transport plans developed inter alia under the frameworks of EU, ASEAN, UNECE, UNESCAP, IMO, ICAO, WCO, OSJD, OTIF, ITF, SCO, EEU, and ECO, for the purpose of establishing seamless transportation connectivity plans in the two regions;

4. **CONSIDER** to realize the said plan by conducting, among others, a feasibility study by ASEM think-tanks that may be considered by the existing ASEM Eurasia Experts Group (EEG) and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) as an institution under ASEM whose works have been in line with ASEM's priorities taking into account the Euro-Asia Transport Links Project (EATL);
5. **IMPROVE** the quality, reliability, sustainability and resilience of all transportation system, including regional and trans-border infrastructure to achieve affordable and equitable transportation access for all;
6. **PROMOTE** integrated multimodal transport system involving all modes of transport to facilitate passengers and cargo movement through coordinated infrastructure developments and information technology application, new innovative logistics supply chain and "green" transport technologies to support inclusive connectivity growth;
7. **WORK** towards improved regional and inter-continental connectivity through policy coordination and facilitation of seamless transport, such as the Euro-Asia Transport Links project and Global Maritime Fulcrum;
8. **FOSTER** stronger cooperation in addressing the challenges encountered by small economies, landlocked, least developed countries, island, archipelagic, and geographically-peripheral countries and regions including remote and outer-most areas;
9. **PROMOTE** the importance of the development of Asia-Europe land-based transport routes and its intermodal and multimodal derivatives rapidly gaining importance as feasible, reliable and competitive transport options in facilitating access to market, economic opportunities, and social services to countries spanning these routes, including land-locked countries;
10. **COORDINATE** further to overcome issue of imbalanced cargo flows along Asia-Europe transport corridors of inland and maritime connections by encouraging development of innovative market solutions on the ASEM's individual Partners;
11. **RECOGNIZE** the importance of harmonization of regulation on the operation of railway sector;
12. **STRENGTHEN** maritime transport network services as an environmentally sustainable and energy efficient way to transport freight between the two continents, and to improve connectivity to geographically peripheral countries and regions - in particular to remote and outer-most areas, to facilitate the seamlessness of trade and the robustness of the supply chain;
13. **PROMOTE** a continuous development of air connectivity across the Asia-Europe regions as the most convenient, fastest, and the most efficient way to ensure the mobility of passengers and time-sensitive and high value added freight as a part of a wider intermodal supply chain development in an increasingly digital world;

14. INITIATE stronger cooperation among ASEM Partners in order to address the issue of high logistics cost and to search innovative solutions through exchange of knowledge and information also through transport education;

15. STRENGTHEN transportation infrastructure investment by ensuring transparency and a level playing field in stimulating private sector and financial institutions involvement through Public Private Partnership as a part of ASEM's transport cooperation agenda;

16. UNDERTAKE actions and strengthen cooperation to achieve the objectives of the United Nations' Decade for Road Safety;

17. SUPPORT the establishment and the work of ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) and to link the work of APGC to ASEM's cooperation in the transport area under the ASEM TMM;

18. WELCOME the dialogues on strengthening transport connectivity within the framework of ASEM TMM, including the dialogue launched at the ASEM Eurasia Symposium which was held in September 2015 and ASEM Eurasia Expert Group Meeting (EEGM) which was held in July 2016, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, as well as the 20th ASEF Summer University of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) on connectivityⁱ and to encourage the continuity of such dialogues, given the value of information and knowledge sharing to the cause;

19. INSTITUTE ASEM TMM Rotating Coordinator within the ASEM TMM host country, which responsible for managing all administrative arrangements, maintaining communication among ASEM Partners, as well as monitoring the progress of ASEM agreed cooperation in the field of transport as endorsed by the ASEM TMM, as foreseen in Paragraph 11 of the Riga Declaration of 30th April 2015;

20. HOLD the next Transport Senior Officials' Meeting in Indonesia in 2018 and the 5th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM5) in Hungary, Europe, in 2019.

ⁱ 20th ASEF Summer University of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) on "Gateways of Asia and Europe: Connectivity by Land, Sea and Air" was held in August/September 2016 in China, the Russian Federation and Mongolia