



**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
AND COMMUNICATIONS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA**



VILNIUS DECLARATION

On Closer Asia-Europe Transport Co-operation

At the fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Ha Noi on 8-9 October 2004, ASEM member countries committed themselves to fostering a closer ASEM economic partnership by signing the Ha Noi Declaration on the Closer ASEM Economic Partnership.

At the seventh ASEM Summit in Beijing, on 24-25 October 2008, ASEM leaders welcomed the initiative of Lithuania to launch an ASEM dialogue on transport issues by officially recognizing transport to be a common driving and supporting force in all ASEM economies and as such it should be permanently present on the ASEM agenda.

At the first ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM) held in Vilnius on 19-20 October 2009, Ministers of Transport and Heads of delegations from the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, the Republic of Indonesia, the Italian Republic, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Portugal, Romania, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Slovakia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Spain, the Kingdom of Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the European Commission have expressed their commitment towards closer Asia-Europe Cooperation, and have hereby declared:

WE, Ministers of Transport of ASEM member countries and representatives of the European Commission gathered in Vilnius on 19-20 October 2009,

Welcoming the initiative of the Government of Lithuania to hold the first ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEM TMM);

Reiterating the principles of ASEM economic co-operation;

Acknowledging the contribution and significance of transport sector for the development of global economy and prosperity of ASEM citizens;

Noting with appreciation the positive contribution of the ADB, UNECE, UNESCAP and SCO to the development of transport in Asia and Europe;

Recognizing the importance of global co-operation among governments and international organizations as well as the need for deepening cooperation in the field of transport to contribute to the international efforts in overcoming the global financial crisis;

Committing ourselves to developing a common policy perspective for transport in Asia and Europe and between these two continents;

Seeking economic growth-supporting and welfare-enhancing outcomes through constructive dialogue;

Therefore have decided to:

STRENGTHEN co-operation for the benefit of all ASEM economies and to work towards mutually beneficial solutions to achieve sustainable transport development and increase potential economic growth of the global economy;

FACILITATE trade between the countries of Asia and Europe by promoting sustainable, efficient, safe and secure transport systems, thus contributing to the fulfilment of the UN Millennium Development Goals and to combat global climate change;

DEVELOP a strategic plan on the Development of Asia and Europe Transport to provide Policy directions for the future development of trans-Asia-Europe transport corridors;

OUTLINE an ASEM Action Plan by formulating Transport Policy Guidelines, sharing good practices as well as statistical data and identifying areas of co-operation in the field of transport;

COMMIT ourselves to a removal of obstacles to road, rail, inland water, maritime and air transport in Asia and Europe, filling in missing links and eliminating bottlenecks including, inter alia, those of administrative nature in order to promote transport and tourism and thus economic development of ASEM member countries, in accordance with principles of sustainable development;

ENCOURAGE international financial organizations to enhance funding for transport infrastructure construction in Asia and Europe, taking into account the routes of the Euro-Asia Transport Links recommended by the UNECE and UNESCAP, with a view to completing expeditiously the priority rail and road linkages connecting Europe and Asia;

TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION the needs and challenges faced by landlocked countries between Asian and European regions and posed by the different levels of development between ASEM member countries, as these relate to facilitating transport operations;

STRENGTHEN capacity building in transport sector, broaden and enable the field of technical co-operation and exchange, foster human resource development and training;

HOLD the ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting every two years alternatively in Europe and Asia, and in this regard establish the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to prepare the ministerial meetings.

ASK SOM to prepare the Action Plan for presentation at the second ASEM TMM;

CONTINUE the activities identified in this Declaration and act according to common procedures defined by the ASEM Co-operation Framework;

AGREE to hold the next ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting in Asia in 2011 (venue to be considered).

Done in Vilnius, Lithuania

20th October 2009