

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
co-organised by the Government of Turkmenistan
and the International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Ashgabat, 16 May 2012

**THE PROSPECTS OF TRANSPORT AND TRANSIT
DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA
AND THE CASPIAN REGION**

Concluding remarks by the IRU Secretary General

Mr Martin Marmy

Your Excellency,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

According to tradition, it is my task to present the conclusions of this international conference.

Allow me first to reiterate our many thanks to the President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Mr Gourbanguly Berdymoukhamedov, and to the Government of Turkmenistan represented here by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice Prime Minister, Mr Meredov.

According to the various speeches, it is clear that this conference is an excellent example of successful cooperation between the Governments of the Central Asian, Caspian, Caucasus and Middle East States and international organisations, including the IRU, in facilitating trade and international road transport along the itineraries of the new Silk Road, notably between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea to better connect these regions to the world markets.

Taking into account the many high-level interventions and the fruitful discussions, it is impossible to summarise. Nevertheless, allow me to highlight a few of the most important issues.

1. Further steps on working out the New UN Special Program on development of the transit-transport potential between the Caspian and Black Seas and between Central Asia and the Middle East

One of the most significant results of today's conference is the fact that everyone supported the first step to effectively implement the initiative presented by His Excellency Mr Gourbanguly Berdymoukhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, at the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation in September 2011.

We have also scheduled the next steps by working out the UN Special Programme on the development of the transit-transport potential between the Caspian and Black Seas and all the major world markets.

2. Implementation of the UN Almaty Programme of Actions

The interventions at the Ashgabat Conference represent an important contribution to the implementation of the UN Almaty Programme of Action addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries.

The discussions held during the Conference confirm also that the development of transport connections between different regions of the world is an issue of global importance that requires close cooperation with several of the UN Regional Commissions and other international organisations which are all members of the UN ECOSOC.

3. Development of Euro-Asian road haulage through the territory of Turkmenistan

Each of the speakers also confirmed that the development of Euro-Asian road transport through the territory of Turkmenistan is not only possible but should be based on the effective implementation of the harmonised procedures and facilitation and security measures provided by international agreements and UN Conventions, such as the Harmonisation Convention and the TIR Convention, as clearly mentioned in the Resolution unanimously adopted during this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Before concluding my remarks, I would like once again to say a big thank you to the President and the Government of Turkmenistan, and to the Heads of the International

Organisations for the mutually beneficial and fruitful cooperation during the preparatory work for the conference and the conference itself.

Finally, I would like to address my thanks to all the governmental representatives of the participating states, and to the international institutions and organisations, including all the IRU Member Associations which have shared their very precious experience in a constructive manner.

Such a broad list of conference speakers and participants, to effectively develop transport links between Asia, Europe and the Middle East in a true public-private partnership confirm the application by all the stakeholders of the IRU motto, "Working together for a better future".

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to invite you all to participate in the 7th Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference that will be organised by IRU in Amman, Jordan on 21 June 2013.

Thank you for your attention

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