

*10 December 2019*

**ASEM TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEET IN BUDAPEST TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DIGITALIZATION AND DECARBONIZATION OF TRANSPORT SYSTEMS, AS WELL AS THE SUSTAINABILITY OF TRANSPORT NETWORKS OF EUROPEAN AND ASIAN COUNTRIES**

**FIFTH ASEM TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING**

**COMMUNIQUE**

**At the Fifth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting, hosted in Budapest on 10 – 11 December 2019, Transport Ministers stressed the importance of the digitalisation and decarbonisation of transport systems for delivering sustainable connectivity between Europe and Asia.**

Ministers responsible for transport of ASEM Partner Countries (ASEM Partners), came together at the 5th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEMTMM5) in Budapest, Hungary on 10-11 December 2019, which was presided by the Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary to strengthen further the Europe-Asia partnership on transport.

The participants expressed their alignment with the strategic orientations outlined by the ASEM Heads of State and Government in the 12th ASEM Summit (ASEM12) in Brussels, Belgium on 18-19 October 2018 for sustainable development and combatting climate change, which became one of the crucial points of the ASEM TMM5 with an emphasis on the transport sector. They recognized the important contribution of transport connectivity in promoting sustainable economic growth and the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Goals. Furthermore, they acknowledged the provisions in the previous ASEM TMM Declarations (ASEMTMM1 in Vilnius, Lithuania on 19-20 October 2009, ASEMTMM2 in Chengdu, China on 24-25 October 2011, ASEMTMM3 Riga, Latvia on 29-30 April 2015 and ASEMTMM4 in Bali, Indonesia on 27 September 2017).

ASEM members present acknowledged ASEM as an important strategic forum for enhancing cooperation between the countries of Asia and Europe, which has a vital role in ensuring long term sustainable flow of goods and services, as well as improved connectivity between the regions. This is important for people-to-people, business-to-business, and state-to-state relations as well as for accelerated implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also reaffirmed the crucial role of the sustainable transport and logistics sector in the continuous integration and interconnectivity of the two continents, and in enabling sustainable economic growth and common prosperity of the ASEM Partners and their contribution to the world economy.

ASEM Partners discussed the pivotal role of all stakeholders of the transport sector as important strategic partners of ASEM in contributing to the research, development and innovation in the necessary transport infrastructure in Europe and Asia. They also emphasized the importance of effective transport connectivity in Asia and Europe supported by cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration in the development of an integrated transport system; namely in: civil aviation, maritime, railways, road transport, and inland waterways in order to reinforce seamless cooperation between the two continents. ASEM Transport Ministers considered the hardships and challenges faced by peripheral countries and regions,

including small economies, landlocked countries, least developed countries, countries in transition, islands, and archipelagic states and the importance of promoting the integration of their transport corridors and networks into the regional and global economies.

ASEM Partners also discussed the technological developments and innovations in the field of digitalization, such as Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), integrated transport services, automated and connected vehicles, high definition maps and high precision geo-positioning services, e-navigation and smart shipping and their direct contribution to the advancement of the infrastructural framework of transport, economy and communication. There was a recognition of the full advantages of these new technologies in the future, especially on the basis of global interoperability and technology neutrality.

ASEM Transport Ministers recognised the clear benefits that digitalization can bring about to the way transport services are provided and the ASEM Partners shared the common view that the development of new technologies that enable the establishment of smart connections for sustainable growth is a priority area.

ASEM Transport Ministers also emphasized the importance of achieving a sustainable transport system through the development of high quality, sustainable, resilient, safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally sound transport connectivity. In this vein, they recognised that countries in the two regions are committed to implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) decisions and the Paris Agreement through their respective Nationally Determined Contributions and global collaborations to address the impact of anthropogenic activities, including transportation, on climate, health and environment, to strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation while not hampering sustainable economic development, and in accordance with relevant international standards and recommendations, including those of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO).

ASEM Transport Partners further stressed key role played by clean and green transport for the sustainable development of the two regions through innovation and new technologies.

ASEM Partner Countries discussed also the importance of:

- regional and inter-continental connectivity, with special focus on its economic, fiscal, financial, environmental and social sustainability, building on the work of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC).
- high-level standards through openness, inclusiveness, transparency, and a level playing field, as well as green, clean, sustainable, and people-centered cooperation in the area of infrastructure connectivity.
- the uptake of digital innovations across ASEM Partner countries, because of their immense potential to increase transport safety, to address externalities from transport such as pollution and congestion, and to open up new economic opportunities.

ASEM Partners countries conferred on:

- the need for the appropriate infrastructure and legal conditions for connected and automated mobility, including multimodal mobility, and for continued efforts to establish digital transportation standards and data access for modern digital cities, ensuring inclusion, accessibility, and safety in congested areas and under all weather conditions. Digital standards will facilitate vehicle-to-vehicle as well as vehicle-to-

infrastructure communication, enabling an increase in the efficiency and safety of the entire transport network.

- the further deployment of intelligent transport systems that would improve the efficiency and safety of transport, through the application of technologies enabling the provision of cross-border and cross-continental transport and mobility services.
- the promotion of the use of green and more sustainable travel arrangements, such as public transport and smart mobility services, by encouraging the sharing and exchanging of travel data which can be used for the development of multimodal travel planning and real time customer information systems, as well as other platforms for integrated electronic ticketing and travel booking systems.
- electronic ticketing systems have a worldwide spoken language option, as well as accessible formats of information, in order to enable their use for a wide range of customers.
- Sustainable transport modes, combined with shared use of transport vehicles and autonomous driving which can support the cleaning and greening of transport connectivity.
- the importance of cooperation of all possible stakeholders in intelligent transport services to ensure smooth data sharing with a systemic view, including, but not limited to, transport infrastructure managers, regulatory bodies, vehicle owners and users, with a priority focus on sustainability and the preservation of human health, and habitable, safe and attractive urban and rural environments.
- the contribution of stronger cooperation to develop clean, green and digitalized transport systems, through support to technical and human capacity building, in addressing challenges faced by peripheral countries and regions, including small economies, landlocked countries, least developed countries, countries in transition, islands, and archipelagic states, and promoting the integration of their transport corridors and networks into the regional and global economies.
- importance of sharing data as a key prerequisite for digitalized transport services and thus recognized the necessity of the user-focused approach and general accessibility of data, while ensuring users' privacy.
- the desirability of public and private transportation providers providing the necessary open data, especially to reduce first and last mile challenges of public transportation in collaboration with modern micro-mobility solutions and more generally new mobility services.
- sharing experiences and national best practices concerning basic user rights and multimodal architecture related to data sharing, with a long term view to providing the necessary legal, financial and infrastructural background for Mobility as a Service (MaaS) covering cross-border transport mobility.
- additional efforts to address the impacts of transport connectivity on the environment and climate change, including the implementation of policies that facilitate the use of more sustainable and clean transport arrangements, and promotion of sustainable urban and rural mobility and the increased use of clean and energy-efficient vehicles. The resilience of transport sector components to climate change and extreme weather conditions was identified as being important.

## **Next Steps**

The ASEM Partners have agreed to hold the next Transport Senior Officials' Meeting in 2020 in Hungary and the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (ASEMTMM6) in 2021 in Asia, in a country to be specified in due course.

## **About ASEM**

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises **53 Partners: 30 European** and **21 Asian** countries, the **European Union** and the **ASEAN Secretariat**. ASEM addresses political, economic, financial, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.