ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting was held on 10-11 December, 2019 in Budapest Hungary with the participation of representatives from 44 ASEM Partner Countries, the European Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the International Transport Forum, the Organization for Cooperation between Railways and the European Tourism Manifesto for Growth & Jobs. The host of the meeting was the Hungarian Ministry for Innovation and Technology responsible for transport. The main topics of the high level discussion were digitalisation, decarbonisation and sustainable transport networks all in the field of transportation policy.

Preparations for the event started at the Transport Senior Officials’ Meeting, held in June 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. The present TMM5 was preceded by a new TSOM meeting held on 9 December 2019, where the participants discussed in detail the text of the proposed documents and all necessary technical and organizational details of the Ministerial event.

TMM5 event received more than 150 registrations from 45 different countries and professionally related international organizations. The importance of the event is demonstrated by the fact that 13 countries were presented at Minister, Deputy Minister and State Secretary level.

H.E. Dr. László Mosóczı, Minister of State for Transport Policy of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary welcomed the participants of the Ministerial Meeting on behalf of H.E. Prof. Dr. László Palkovics, Minister for Innovation and Technology of Hungary, and emphasized the importance of the work done during the Transport Senior Officials Meeting held in June 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. The Minister of State gave a broad overview of the Hungarian transport policy and underlined, that transport sector is considered to be an innovative and developing field and acknowledged as a key to sustainability within the development policy framework of the Government of Hungary. Dr. Mosóczı also outlined the results achieved within the framework of the ASEM cooperation, and expressed the appreciation and support of the Government of Hungary regarding the enhancement of joint international efforts related to the development of transport connectivity between the two continents.
Mr. Harvey Rouse, Head of Unit for International Relations of Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission (DG MOVE) expressed the Commission’s gratitude and appreciation to the Hungarian organizers of the meeting and underlined, that the focus areas of the meeting are of priority importance within the context of the mandate and strategy of the new Commission. Mr. Rouse remarked that basic principles of the joint intentions of the ASEM partners as well as common interests related to transport connectivity between Asia and Europe have already been agreed upon in the June TSOM. He emphasized the significance of the European Green Deal and the 2050 carbon neutrality target of the European Union. In his speech Mr. Rouse also pointed out the importance of the quality, reliability and resilience of transport system, and the significance of efficiency and inclusivity as priority features of transport links between Asia and Europe.

Mr. Budi Setiyadi, Director General for Land Transport of the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia delivered a welcome speech on behalf of the Indonesian Government as the organizer of the previous ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (TMM4). In his speech Mr. Setiyadi - expressed the gratitude of the Government of Indonesia for valuable support from ASEM partners during the Indonesian chairmanship of ASEM TMM, and summarized the experience of the progress made during the period of the Indonesian Chairmanship since the previous TMM, - pointed out that both ASEAN and the European Union have established transport connectivity strategies for the development of transport cooperation between the two continents and that ASEM process has served as efficient platform for harmonizing these strategies.

The representatives of the participating ASEM Partners adopted the attached Communique of ASEM TMM5 emphasizing the importance of the digitalization and decarbonization of transport systems, as well as the sustainability of transport networks of European and Asian countries. The representative of the European Commission informed the participating delegations, that on the basis of a new internal regulation of the European Union, the adequate form of the statement be adopted by the participants of the TMM is a joint communiqué, on the basis of which the usual form of declaration can be issued following an internal approval procedure by the relevant decision making bodies of the European Union.

The first session of the meeting focused on digitalization. The participating delegations had the opportunity to follow several presentations about successful innovative technological solutions and best practices in this field:

- Dr. Zsolt Szalay PhD., Associate Professor and Head of the Faculty of Transportation Engineering and Vehicle Engineering at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics delivered a presentation on “Hungarian ecosystem for the deployment of a cooperative, connected and automated mobility”, outlining the innovative technological developments related to the ZalăZONE test track for automated and connected vehicles.

- In a presentation titled „HU-GO – The innovative Hungarian toll-charging system”, Mr. Zoltán Varga, Director for International Relations of the National Toll Payment Services Plc. gave an overview of the operational and the innovative factors of the Hungarian electronic toll collection system, describing the special characteristics and benefits of system in respect of the customers and the national interests.
Mr. József Szilvai, CEO of the Hungarian Public Road Nonprofit Pte Ltd Co., Chairman of the National Committee of the World Road Association and member of the Executive and Governing Board of the Conference of European Directors of Roads presented the transition of the Hungarian public road network into a digitally operated road system, emphasizing Hungary’s increasing focus on the introduction of new services and pilot applications throughout the country.

Mr. Márton Feldmann, Head of Railway Automation Division, Member of Board of PROLAN Group delivered a presentation on „Intelligent solutions for railway traffic- and infrastructure management”, describing the development, manufacturing and implementing competences for various railway automation solutions of the medium size Hungarian enterprise.

The presentations were followed by interventions from the participating delegations of Cambodia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore and the UNECE. In their contributions the delegates emphasized the importance of the widest possible involvement of innovative technologies into the development of public transportation, and within this context the importance of high value added by collaboration with various services and cooperation with community development was supported.

The afternoon session of the meeting was focusing on Decarbonization and sustainable transport networks:

- A presentation titled “The visions of future urban supply chains for the green cities: possible applications in Budapest” was delivered by Dr. Krisztián Bóna PhD. and Mr. Dávid Sárdi from City Logistics Research Group at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics about the development of city logistics concepts for the city of Budapest and the results of the simulation, which are related to the emission and to the logistics operation costs.

- Mr. Gyula Hangyál, Director of ATM at HungaroControl presented the practice of the Hungarian air traffic management aiming to reduce the negative environmental impacts of aviation emission through shortening of the flying time of aircrafts.

- Mr. Mikael Nyberg, High-Level Representative for Transport and Communications Policy from the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Finland, the representative of the Finnish EU-presidency delivered a presentation titled “Transport policy achievements of the Finnish EU Presidency with a view of outreach to priorities related to Euro-Asian connectivity” highlighting the importance of interoperability and data sharing, Mobility as a Service, sustainability and maritime automation as the cooperation sectors for European and Asian countries.

- In a presentation titled “ITF: Interactive Global Platform for Sustainable Transport” Mr. Young Tae Kim, Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum informed the representatives of the participating ASEM Partners about the overall concept of the outreach strategy of the International Transport Forum, as well as the transport policy priorities of the organization.
Mr. Ádám Bodor, Vice-chairman of European Tourism Manifesto for Growth & Jobs summarized his views on Active mobility (cycling and walking) and its significance in decarbonizing of the transport sector and key factors influencing cycling.

The presentations were followed by the interventions of the participating delegations from Belgium, Japan, Republic of Korea and Lithuania. The delegations presented government plans and achievements in various fields of connectivity, such as:
- smart public road plans (infrastructure development and traffic management),
- application of innovative technologies in the railway sector,
- 5G communication technology applications in cities,
- involvement of digital links into the development of TEN-T networks,
- electronic service for registering the transport of foreign trade cargo, and digital passenger transport services,
- innovative road accidents emergency response systems,
- opportunities and possible risks related to new technologies in transport safety development,
- significance of the development of railway links between Asia and Europe,
- initiatives related to the reduction of carbon footprints of transport,
- promotion of green transport modes within the context of connectivity between Asia and Europe.

Along with these concepts strategic views related to transport connectivity, highlighting priority areas as Mobility as a Service (MaaS), automated driving and integrated transport services were outlined, furthermore specific launch cooperation between cities, sharing innovative ideas, open minded in data sharing was brought as an example with MaaS in place practice.

The participating delegations were informed about the Global Sustainable Transport Conference to be held in May 2020, Beijing, China. The delegation of the Peoples Republic of China invited the ASEM Partners to the Conference.

The Hungarian organizers called the attention of the ASEM partners, that an organizer for the next ASEM Transport Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM TMM6) is still on the agenda and requested the non-European partner countries to consider the opportunity to organize the event (ideally in year 2021).

The Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary informed the participating delegations, that a Transport Senior Officials’ Meeting is planned to be organized during the first semester of year 2020 for a follow up on TMM5, namely for summarizing the results of the work to be done on the basis of the intentions identified at the Ministerial Discussions and for reviewing the possibilities of next steps in order to continue the activity within the framework of ASEM cooperation in the field of transport connectivity.

On 11 December 2019 a side event was held, during which the delegations participating at TMM5 visited the ZalaZONE proving ground for automated and connected vehicles in the town of Zalaegerszeg. The trip from Budapest to Zalaegerszeg was conducted in cooperation with MÁV-START, Hungarian Rail Passenger Transport Company. At the premises of the test track a comprehensive overview was provided by Dr. András Háry, Managing Director of APZ Ltd, the company operating the proving ground, outlining the opportunities for potential users of the test track. In a presentation delivered in the conference centre of ZalaZONE, the
Managing Director emphasized, that the proving ground is an optimal test environment for manufacturers of future cars for testing their vehicles and their communication technologies and supports continuous testing from the concept to the final product status. The experts of the ZalaZONE proving ground organized a site visit to the test track roads and an experiment simulating realistic traffic situations with a self-driving car was presented to the delegations.