



Summary Report

on the ASEM Transport Senior Officials' Meeting

Videoconference, 12 May, 2020

ASEM Transport Senior Officials' Meeting videoconference was held on 12 May, 2020 with the participation of representatives from 35 ASEM Partner Countries and the European Commission. 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 (i) the experiences of ASEM TMM5 and introduction of best practices of the partner countries in the field of digitalization, decarbonisation and sustainable transport networks, (ii) the exchange of views and experiences on the effects of COVID-19 in the field of transport, including key issues, emerging challenges and future adaptations, and (iii) proposals for the future cooperation, including the organizing of the Sixths ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting.

Session 1.

Experiences of ASEM TMM5 and introduction of best practices of the partner countries in the field of digitalization, decarbonisation and sustainable transport networks

Minister of State for Transport Policy of HUNGARY Dr. László Mosóczi briefly summarized the outcome of the Fifth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting (TMM5) held in December 2019 in Budapest Hungary. The focus points of TMM5 meeting were digitalisation, decarbonisation and sustainable transport networks. Dr. Mosóczi emphasized, that the Government of Hungary believed that these areas remain determining factors in the coming years as well. He pointed out, that the last few months made radical changes in the life of every country, and the fight against the coronavirus pandemic underlined the importance of transport. Ensuring smooth freight transport became an identified top priority even while passenger traffic flows decreased significantly as people were requested to stay at home. Those who needed to move recognised the advantages of digital solutions. Even people with preconceptions to new gadgets defeated their prejudice: retired people started to use credit cards instead of cash, people got more interested in tracking applications, let it be the parcel they ordered or the vehicle they want to catch. However, mobility restrictions also made people realize the importance of free movement.

Dr. Mosóczi underlined, that the Government of Hungary was convinced that ASEM had been serving as an excellent platform for cross-continental cooperation and provides excellent

opportunities to exchange views, practices, to learn from each other, to strengthen the motivation of officials, and to identify the next steps for the future.

Mr. Harvey Rouse, Head of Unit for International Relations of Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION referred to the challenges of the present economic slowdown, caused by the COVID-19. He recalled that at the fifth ASEM TMM, the ministers placed significant importance on digitalisation, decarbonisation and sustainable transport networks and stressed that it was vital to continue making progress in these three areas. He informed of the actions, taken by the European Commission, since the ASEM TMM, in particular the adoption of the European green Deal which includes measures on transport sustainability and digitalisation, such as the EU Stagey for sustainable and smart mobility. Mr. Rouse emphasized that the European Green Deal signed in December 2019 is very much in line with the direction on sustainable transport, agreed at the TMM5. He recalled that transport ministers acknowledged that ASEM is an important strategic forum of cooperation between the two continents, providing great opportunity to learn from each other, especially in the times of this global pandemic. He stressed that the global connectivity has been severely reduced in short and medium term. He pointed out, that the European Commission considers it essential to maintain supply chains, delivery of goods and services and highlighted the importance for ASEM members to enhance cooperation and learn from each other, with the aim to coordinate and identify common actions to address COVID-19.

Mr. Xiaojie Zhang, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Transport of CHINA emphasized, the importance of digitalization and information technology in the period of facing covid-19 in China Transport field, and gave example of China's online information sharing platform which provide all the people about all the emergency help hotlines and policies and other related topics. Mr. Zhang illustrated the affect brought by covid-19 to the Transport field and we shared some of our experiences to the partner countries.

The Chinese Delegation also reminded the participants, that Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference has been postponed from its original dates in May, a possible new date is under discussion between China and UN, the participants will be informed in due course.

H. E. Hon. Dr. Djoko Sasono, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation of INDONESIA gave a detailed overview about the policies of the Government of Indonesia in the field of transport, and the implementation of digitalization, decarbonization and sustainable transport networks. The speaker updated on the Strategic Plan of the Directorate of Civil Aviation of Indonesia, which will include CORSIA measures and will be implemented by the MoT in collaboration with EASA.

Mr. Peter Morgan, Administrative Officer of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport of IRELAND provided an update on plans for the International Transport Forum (ITF) Ministerial Summit on the topic of "Transport Innovation for Sustainable Development" that was scheduled to take place from 27 to 29 May 2020 in Leipzig, Germany. As the current holders of the ITF Presidency, Ireland's Transport Minister, Mr Shane Ross, issued letters to all ITF Transport Ministers notifying them of the postponement of the ITF Summit due to the current health pandemic. Ireland noted that today's ASEM meeting provides an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and experiences about the transport sector in both Europe and Asia in the context of COVID-19. Ireland looks forward to continuing work with ASEM member countries as we emerge from the current crisis.

Mr. Uchino Yasuaki, Director of International Cooperation at International Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of JAPAN presented the measures taken by the Japanese Government in order to spread digitalization in all transport infrastructure modes and services, and Japan's achievements in the field of application of decarbonization technologies in the transport sector.

Ms. Jiyoung Shim, Director of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of KOREA informed the ASEM community about the measures of the Korean Government in the field of digitalization and decarbonization of the transport sector.

Ms. Normah Osman, Deputy Secretary General (Policy) of the Ministry of Transport of MALAYSIA underlined the importance of data analytics in the field of operation of smart transport technologies and informed the participants, that Malaysia has taken several incentives in the field of transport, with a focus on carbon offsetting of air transport. In the field of maritime transport Malaysia aims to reach an environmentally friendly and commercially sustainable regime. Intermodal integration has to be further developed and substantial improvement in mass transport services is necessary. Malaysia is continuously updating and implementing international benchmarking indicators in the field of transport infrastructure and services.

Mr. Yap Ong Heng, Senior Advisor of the Ministry of Transport of SINGAPORE informed the participants about the Singapore Government's views on the importance of keeping the supply chains open, supporting the transport sector and restoring international travel. He emphasized, that the international community should make use of the opportunity to build more sustainable, efficient, and resilient transport systems.

Ms. Jatuporn Niemsuk, Assistant Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport of THAILAND emphasized benefits of digitalization that can bring ASEM partners to the advancement of smart and sustainable transport networks as well as importance of achieving a sustainable transport system through the development of sustainable, inclusive resilient, safe, efficient, and green transport connectivity. Thailand shared experiences of using digitalization in public transport, for example, GPS tracking in buses and Smart Bus Terminal (the mobile application), and also the experiences of decarbonizing by using electric vehicles (EVs), especially "Taxi VIP Project". Thailand mentioned about the latest policy to make the country a regional hub of electric vehicles in five years. Under the policy, 250,000 electrified vehicles, 3,000 electric public buses, and 53,000 electric motorcycles will be produced by 2025.

Ms. Jane Peters, Deputy Director, International Directorate, UNITED KINGDOM Department for Transport informed the participants, that UK Government is planning and hoping to reschedule the COP26 conference in due course, which was originally planned to be held in Glasgow in November 2020, has had to be postponed due to COVID-19. She underlined, that decarbonization is a global problem that requires a global solution. It should continue to be an international priority and it's certainly at the top of the UK's agenda. The "Setting the Challenge" document, published in March 2020, sets out the scale of the emissions reduction needed to comply with domestic net zero legislation and kick started an extensive consultation process with stakeholders.

Ms. Peters recalled, that UK was first major global economy to pass a law requiring us to achieve 'net zero' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The legislation requires the

government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% relative to 1990 levels by 2050. Building on this ambition, given UK's role of hosts of COP26, throughout 2020 the Government aims to strengthen international cooperation and accelerate the shift to zero and low carbon transport, and it welcomes collaborations by ASEM partners.

The UK will pursue real world climate action in cooperation with governments, businesses and civil society in various fields, including road transport, to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The UK has passed committed to ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2040, and is consulting on accelerating that commitment to a 2035 target date, or even earlier if a faster transition appears feasible. On domestic electromobility support, the UK is investing around £2.5bn, with both demand- and supply-side measures. The UK Government is providing £500 million over the next five years to support the rollout of infrastructure for electric vehicles, ensuring that drivers will never be further than 30 miles from a rapid charging station.

Last year UK Government published the Clean Maritime Plan, which sets out the UK's strategy on domestic action to reduce shipping emissions across the UK economy and meet the legislative target of Net Zero emissions by 2050. There is a strong collaboration between Government, industry and academia in the field of clean maritime innovation within the framework of MarRI-UK – which is an organisation bringing together UK industry and academia to jointly tackle innovation and technology challenges in the maritime sector.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has committed to reduce and ultimately phase out international maritime emissions. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has announced the first ever global measure to reduce emissions in a single sector in the form of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA).

The UK is committed to reducing aviation emissions both at a global level through ICAO and at home. We are consulting on the Aviation 2050 strategy, with a range of measures including efficiency improvements in technology, operations and air traffic management, use of sustainable aviation fuels and of other market-based measures.

UK's railway offers UK citizens and companies a comparatively green way to travel or move goods. However, for us to reach net zero by 2050 rail must significantly decarbonise. Together with Network Rail the UK Government is developing a traction decarbonisation strategy, which will examine which parts of the network are most suited to electrification. The UK's rail estate also presents an opportunity for other climate change measures. The Department for Transport also supports a project called 'Riding Sunbeams', which uses solar power generated on the trackside to power trains through the existing electrified network – which was a world first.

H.E. Mr. Leng Thunyuthea, State Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of CAMBODIA updated on the new concession scheme in Phnom Pehn for tram transport services and gave an overview of the new large-scale Phnom Pehn airport development. He also emphasized, that the Belt and Road initiative can serve as efficient global development strategy in the phase of the relaunch of the economy.

Session 2.

Exchange of views and experiences on the effects of COVID-19 in the field of transport, including key issues, emerging challenges and future adaptations

Minister of State Dr. Mosóczy informed the participants, that the Government of HUNGARY has declared a state of danger in the entire territory of Hungary from 11 March. On 28 March, restrictions on movement of people were introduced. These restrictions are still in force in Budapest and its surroundings, however they have been lifted since 4 May in other parts of the country.

Hungarian state borders have been closed for road, rail, air and waterway foreign passenger's transport since 16 March, and border controls between Hungary and Slovenia, Austria and Slovakia that is, inside the so-called Schengen Area of the European Union were temporarily reintroduced. As part of the exit measures, since 3 May Hungarian citizens are allowed to travel Austria, Chechia, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and the Republic of Korea for business purposes and the citizens of these six countries are allowed to travel to Hungary for business purposes.

The Government of Hungary enacted regulations also for domestic passenger transport, namely wearing a mask and keeping the social distance of at least 1,5 meter is obligatory when using public transport. In the field of railway transport, the aim is that the vehicles operate with a maximum occupancy rate of 30 percent. Transport service providers introduced frequent disinfecting procedures at main hubs. Hungary also introduced so called "humanitarian corridors" ensuring the possibility of international passenger transport crossing our country without interfering with Hungarian citizens. The Hungarian authorities constantly monitor the needs arising from the travelers in order to ensure that passengers can reach their homes and Hungary can fulfill its international and EU obligations, with a special focus on providing the opportunity for the labor force to reach the targeted country.

As far as freight traffic is concerned, the Government of Hungary has been committed to continuously guarantee the free movement of goods across the border since the outbreak of the disease, and maintains an active dialogue with the governments and transport authorities of the neighboring countries as well as of distant countries, in order to ensure fast and efficient administration in this field.

In the field of road transport, Hungary has designated transit corridors to enable trucks entering border crossing points to reach neighbor countries, and the weekend ban of the traffic of heavy goods vehicles has been lifted in order to ensure the operation of supply chains.

In the field of inland navigation, cargo vessels navigating in transit mode are allowed to use the anchorages on the River Danube waterway and its navigable tributaries only when necessary to observe the rest periods taken by the vessels' crews.

No limitations were imposed in Hungary for rail freight. Hungary experienced however, that traffic volumes of this year are below of those of last year, this trend is independent from the COVID-19 epidemy, although there was a slight increase thanks to the shift from road to rail.

With regard to exit strategy, the opinion of the Government of Hungary is, that any possible lifting of the containment measures has to be carried out in a deliberate schedule with a strict

timetable and a gradual approach. Aviation being one of the most important modes of international passenger transport between Asia and Europe. In this sector, a so-called step-by-step approach would be most appropriate. Moreover, the renewal of confidence on the part of passengers is essential. Therefore, some kind of common guidelines would be very helpful for any further harmonized health and disease control measures to follow in order to avoid further negative effects. Activity in international organizations in the process of formulating international standards to be followed by all players of the transport sector related to the restart of operation of transportation services is of utmost importance.

On behalf of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Mr. Harvey Rouse, Head of Unit for International Relations of Directorate General for Mobility and Transport emphasized, that the the pandemic is having a major disruptive impact on transport and mobility. The European Commission has acted quickly and effectively taking extraordinary measures to limit the impact on the EU transport sector, to ensure the continuity of the global supply chain beyond the EU borders and to support the transportation sectors during the containment phase. Continued and uninterrupted land, waterborne and air cargo services were, and continue to be, key to the functioning of the EU's internal market and its effective response to the crisis. In terms of land transport, the Commission's goal was to provide the necessary infrastructure and service environment for enable freight transport to cross the EU-borders on a green lane in maximum 15 minutes.

Presenting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on transport modes, he informed the participants, that EU passenger transport by sea has also been affected by the restrictions, the demand is significantly weaker compared to last year, cca. 15 % of the fleet is currently inactive. In response to this, the Commission has recently issued guidance on facilitating a safe and swift return home for cruise passengers and crew, on safe crew changes, as well as on access to medical assistance. Moreover, a proposal to amend the regulation on port charges is in the pipeline and will give Member States and port authorities the flexibility to defer, reduce or lift port infrastructure charges for port users, if they so wish. This will provide shipping companies, including those operating ferries, with much-needed liquidity. Mr. Rouse informed the participants, that aviation was one of the worst hit sectors, experiencing a decrease of approximately 90%. The European Commission has published several guidance documents related to health and safety during flights for competent authorities, airports, airlines and their crews. In order to prevent ghost flights, the European Commission enacted temporary alleviations of airlines from slot keeping rules. Airfreight remains crucial for Europe. The continuation of supply chains via air, especially of highly critical medical supplies, is in the common interest of all, not only within the EU, but also globally, and in particular with our ASEM partners. The European Commission has introduced measures including granting temporary traffic rights for additional cargo operations from outside the EU. Mr Rouse stated that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to a gradual, science-based and effective return to normal operations in the global transport sector, but the lifting of containment measures in a coordinated way and complementary future approaches are a matter of common interest and benefit for the EU and for the members of ASEM. Global coordination among governments and between governments and the private sector is therefore necessary and the ASEM offers us a very valuable framework. We need to address key issues to ensure effective and sustainable services that are safe for passengers and workers in all transport modes. ASEM could also aim at facilitating a timely and comprehensive sharing of the impacts of health crises on transportation. Harmonised gathering and exchange of data and information at a global level is essential to better manage the impact on the transport sector moving forward. This ASEM TSOM provides an excellent forum in which to facilitate this

exchange. the EU, like all other countries and regions, looks forward to an exit strategy from the current containment measures. The European Commission is proceeding in a coordinated manner with our Member States with a view to preparing the ground for a comprehensive recovery plan and an unprecedented investment programme. In this vein, as announced in the joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures, the Commission is working on a set of guidelines to facilitate this coordination in the EU. These guidelines will shortly be made publicly available and shared with you to enhance mutual learning and exchanges within ASEM. Moreover, we still plan on launching our flagship strategy on sustainable and smart mobility this year knowing that it will have to also take into account the much-needed recovery of the transport sector from COVID-19. Recovery in the transport sector is not simply about “rebooting” our economies. We must also strive to do this in a sustainable and mutually beneficial way, as clearly stated in the European Green Deal. Integrating the twin green and digital transition will be fundamental to the EU economic recovery. Our cooperative and coordinated exchange on approaches will help ensure that we benefit from and build on lessons learned from the current crisis and will enable us to ensure the future preparedness and resilience of all our ASEM members.

Ms. Hongbin Zhang, Director for European, American and African Affairs of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Transport of CHINA emphasized, that transportation of medical supplies is crucial, and the governments need to keep logistics flow open and connected. She underlined, that regular cleaning and disinfection of vehicles, bus stations and railway stations, as well as the ensuring of restricted passenger load on vehicles, along with the obligation of wearing masks, are of priority importance as well. She drew the attention of the participants, that International Maritime Organization (IMO) recently circulated guidelines for Covid-19 protection in maritime services.

Mr. Derry Aman, Head of Partnership Facilitation and International Organization Center of the Ministry of Transportation of INDONESIA delivered a detailed presentation on the transport sector policy of the Government of Indonesia related to the prevention of Covid-19 spread. Such policy measures cover all transport modes including the management of transport to and from restricted areas with high risk.

Mr. Uchino Yasuaki, Director of International Cooperation at International Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of JAPAN delivered a presentation on COVID-19 Response Efforts of Japan's Transport Sector. He updated on the impact of the pandemic and the basic measures taken by the Japanese Government, other measures taken in order to prevent the spread of the infection, steps for the recovery of the economy, and unconventional measures by the transport industry.

Ms. Jiyoung Shim, Director of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of KOREA updated on the guidelines presented by the Government of the Republic of Korea for transport service providers, about the restrictions and health protection measures to be followed during the provision of transport services. She underlined, that special transport services have been introduced for international passengers, in order to minimize their contact with the general public, and train stations have been equipped with thermal cameras and body temperature monitors for limiting the spread of Covid-19.

Ms. Normah Osman, Deputy Secretary General (Policy) of the Ministry of Transport of MALAYSIA emphasized, that the new reality has to be based on safe and sustainable connectivity. She underlined, that the activity of all nations in international organizations, e.

g. in IMO and under several UN conventions, is of vital importance for the international co-operation in the field of the fight against Covid-19.

Mr. Yap Ong Heng, Senior Advisor of the Ministry of Transport of SINGAPORE updated on the provisions taken by the Government of Singapore in order to increase plots for airlines, and a significant program for the enhancement of maritime transport activity, pointing out, that new financial requirements in various transport services must include Covid security measures. He informed the participants about the steps taken by the Government of Singapore for the restart and gradual renewal of transport services, emphasizing, that the along with continuing the battle against Covid-19, the digitalization of the transport sector is inevitable in ensuring the safety of supply chains.

Ms. Jatuporn Niemsuk, Assistant Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport of Thailand presented the practical guidelines on prevention of transmission of COVID-19 for public transport in Thailand which include wearing a face mask, social distancing, and extra screening when using all public transports. Thailand mentioned that, there were a total of 3,015 confirmed cases with 56 COVID-19 deaths in Thailand and 6 additional cases were reported, as of 11 May 2020. Whereas, there are 2,796 cases have recovered or 92.74% of the total confirmed cases. Although the number of infections has dramatically decreased, Thailand is still maintaining the practical guidelines for all public transports in order to control and prevent the transmission of the Coronavirus.

Ms. Irina Bykova, Counselor at the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Transport of The RUSSIAN FEDERATION noted that transportation of goods and mail in containers by railways could reduce the epidemiological risks in the face of COVID-19 pandemic. Russia informed that the Ministry of Transport of The Russian Federation sent official letter about this initiative to foreign partners, including ASEM countries.

H.E. Mr. Leng Thunyuthea, State Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of CAMBODIA updated on the joint efforts from private and public sector in fighting against the pandemic. The Governmnet of Cambodia has cancelled all public holiday events and other public gatherings, and made it compulsory to wear masks on public transport vehicles.

Pengiran Haji Mohd Zain, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary (Transport, Research and Development), Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications of BRUNEI DARUSSALAM informed the ASEM partner governments about the efforts of the Brunei Government in the field of transport technology solutions within the framework of fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

Mrs. Nahida Rahman Shumona, Director General for Regional Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BANGLADESH updated on the Governments measures taken in order to provide necessary protection against the spread of the Covid-19 infection and special measures take within the transport sector.

In a short remark INDONESIA expressed its hope, that all nations' efforts in facing and battling the pandemic, will be successful.

CHINA made a final remark under this agenda item, emphasizing, that the stability of global logistics chains is of vital importance and proposed to establish a special working force, serving as a correspondence working group within ASEM, to help to solve covid related

problems in the field of international transport, share experience or deal with difficulties together, and enhance the international cooperation in order to assist the governments to elaborate concrete measures.

Sixth ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting

The Ministry for Innovation and Technology of HUNGARY informed the ASEM partners, that an organizer for the **Sixth 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).

Keeping in mind that ASEM Transport Ministers Meeting is a high-level international event and Hosting Country need to provide an appropriate level of hospitality. RUSSIA asked about requirements related with ASEM TSOM and ASEM TMM arrangement - accommodation, transfer and etc. HUNGARY agreed to send the necessary information to Russia as soon as possible.

The participants agreed, that the international community is looking forward to receiving more information in this subject as soon as possible.

* * *

Minister of State Dr. Mosóczy expressed thanks and appreciation by the Government of Hungary to all participants of the TMM and TSOM meetings under the hosting of Hungary during the years 2019-2020 and emphasized that Hungary is planning to remain an active partner in the ASEM cooperation process.