

TURKIC COUNCIL
JOINT COOPERATION PROTOCOL
ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT

We, the Ministers of Transport of the Member States of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as Turkic Council), gathering in Baku on 3 July 2013,

Referring to the previous two Summit Declarations made in Almaty in 2011 and Bishkek in 2012,

Recognizing economic cooperation as a key driver of regional integration among Member States of the Turkic Council, and that the overarching goal of economic cooperation is to realize free movement of goods, capital, services and technology among the Member States,

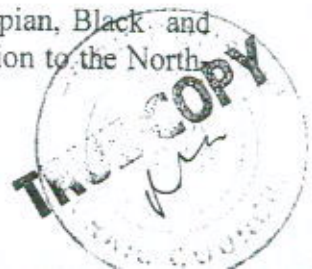
Reaffirming that the Turkic Council aims to become an influential, result-oriented regional organization enhancing regional cooperation and thus mutual understanding among the Member States.

Underlining the need and importance of full and timely implementation of the measures pertaining to the development of cooperation in the field of transport, as reflected in the Agreed Minutes of the four meetings of the Working Group on Development of Transport.

Recognizing that transport plays a vital role in promoting trade, investment and tourism in the Eurasian region.

Highlighting that a deeper interconnectivity and interoperability of regional transport systems among the Turkic Council Member States are vital in order to achieve safer, more efficient and more reliable international trade,

Reiterating their encouragement for the multi-modal transport through Caspian, Black and Marmara Seas, as envisaged by Silk Wind Project, enabling further connection to the North-South and East-West corridors in the region,



Realizing the role of rail transport as an efficient mode for intermodal transport in ensuring traffic safety, cargo safety and environmental protection,

Acknowledging the necessity to intensify efforts for the removal of both physical and non-physical barriers against the free movement of passengers and goods in the region,

Have agreed to:

1. **Stress** the intention to intensify joint efforts for promotion of efficient, environmentally-sound, safe, secure, integrated and sustainable transport systems among the Member States which will, in turn, result in achieving more efficient use of trade opportunities among the Member States and accelerating regional transport cooperation.
2. **Call upon** the relevant authorities to undertake a review of the existing transport infrastructure of the Member States, both national and international transport networks with a view to sharing experiences and adopting best practices for their smooth functioning.
3. **Invite** the Member States to develop joint tangible transport projects, in collaboration with other states, to serve the whole region, with the purpose of enhancing interconnectivity and interoperability of transport activities.
4. In this connection, **urge** the Member States to take necessary measures for the implementation of their national and regional transportation initiatives on a complementary basis.
5. **Call upon** the Member States to strive for harmonization of their legal and regulatory systems on transportation.
6. **Underline** to enhance cooperation and interaction with other related international and regional organizations, institutions and initiatives with a view to increasing the transport potential of the region.
7. **Support** liberalization of transit road transportation as a goal with a view to further enhancing trade among the Member States and strengthening their competitive multilateral capacities.
8. **Highlight** the importance of meeting regularly at level of Ministers in order to further enhance existing cooperation among the Member States, as directed by the Council of Heads of State in the Second Turkic Council Summit held on 23 August 2012 in Bishkek.



9. Recognizing that deeper interconnectivity and interoperability of regional transport systems are of vital importance to promoting trade, investment and tourism among the Turkic Council Member States, **express** that functioning of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) Railway and Silk Wind Projects on a complementary basis, while encouraging containerization, will promote efficient, integrated and sustainable transportation in the Central (East-West) Corridor.
10. **Stress** the importance of the use of common CIM/SMGS Consignment Note to facilitate intermodal transport among the Member States as well as the regional states.
11. **Underline** the importance of taking further steps for the development and promotion of the multi-modal trans-regional projects, especially for the purpose of rendering Caspian, Black and Marmara Seas transportation as a viable option for the Member States.
12. Conscious of the importance of multi-modal transport through Caspian Sea, **appreciate** the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Turkic Sister Ports among Baku International Sea Trade Port of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Aktau International Sea Port of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Samsun International Port of the Republic of Turkey, and **further encourage** the establishment of "Turkic Sister Ports" relationships among other sea ports of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkey.
13. Acknowledging existing cooperation between Baku-Aktau Sea Port authorities, **urge** the relevant authorities for the effective utilization of the Ro-Ro and ferry services across Caspian Sea between Baku and Aktau to provide an uninterrupted movement of goods and people across region.
14. **Call upon** the Member States to hold meetings at expert level on the safety and security aspects of transportation keeping in view that various dimensions of security are closely linked to the effective implementation of transportation in the overall region.
15. **Encourage** joint studies for long-term Asia-Europe transport development plans aiming at further development of transport infrastructure, multimodal transport connections and logistics centers as well as sea ports that would present additional transport options to the current and future trade flows among the Member States, Europe and Asia.
16. **Recommend** organizing regional training seminars, round table meetings, conferences so as to establish an atmosphere conducive to exchange of views on national experiences and best practices in specific transport subjects among experts of the Member States, other states and international organizations as well as think-tanks.
17. **Decide** to bring the issue of inviting Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as potential Turkic Council Members, to the meetings of the Turkic Council on transport issues to the attention of the Heads of State at the next Summit.



18. Agree to consider the invitation of regional partners to the meetings of the Working Group and Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council as deemed necessary.

Ministers agreed to bring this Protocol to the attention of their Heads of State at the 3rd Summit of the Turkic Council to be held in Azerbaijan on 15-16 August 2013.

Signed on 3 July 2013 in Baku in English.

Minister of Transport
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Ziya MAMMADOV

Minister of Transport and Communications
of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Askar ZHUMAGALIYEV

Minister of Transport and Communications
of the Kyrgyz Republic

Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and
Communications of the Republic of Turkey



Binali YILDIRIM



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)
ON SISTER SEAPORT RELATION AND COOPERATION
AMONG THE PORTS OF BAKU (THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN), AKTAU (THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN)
AND SAMSUN (THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY)

GATHERED:

ON BEHALF OF BAKU INTERNATIONAL SEA TRADE PORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN: Mr. Elchin MIRZAYEV, General Director.

ON BEHALF OF AKTAU INTERNATIONAL TRADE SEA PORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN: Mr. Kairiden NURKENOV, Representative of the Authorized Person.

ON BEHALF OF SAMSUN INTERNATIONAL PORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY: Mr. Suat Hayri AKA, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey.

IN ASSEMBLY, for the purpose of signing a non-binding **Sister Seaports Memorandum of Understanding** (hereinafter referred to as MoU) among Baku International Sea Trade Port, Aktau International Sea Port and Samsun International Port under the following terms:

1. This document will officially link the Port of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Turkey through a Sister Seaports MoU.

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2. Aktau International Sea Port, through its Director and duly elected officials, Baku International Sea Trade Port, through its Director and duly elected officials, and Samsun International Port, through its Director and duly elected officials shall execute the Sister Seaports MoU. The provision of this article shall be implemented and construed in conformity with the legislation, practices and policies of the Parties.

3. Each port will commit to the free and uninhibited exchange of information pertaining to: the cargo and cruise industries in each port; historical and statistical information pertaining to each port; planned seaport infrastructure developments and general marketing research, aimed at increasing cruise and cargo traffic at each of the ports.

4. Each port will study the possibility of creating the technical and financial means, by way of joint ventures or other business arrangements, to promote the traffic and port activities covered in this document.

5. Each port will work toward the formation of technical working groups to exchange educational visits and act as facilitators between the ports.

6. Each port will promote the relationship and advantages of doing business among the Sister Seaports.

7. Through the mutual consent of Sister Seaports, additional areas of cooperation and partnering may be spelled out as a part of this MoU.

The parties consider of the utmost interest the creation of a working group, made up of representatives from each party, for the express purpose of putting into practice the purposes of this MoU.

The parties agree that this MoU is an expression of goodwill and cooperation and not intended to constitute a legal contract or agreement or otherwise set forth any legally binding rights or obligations.

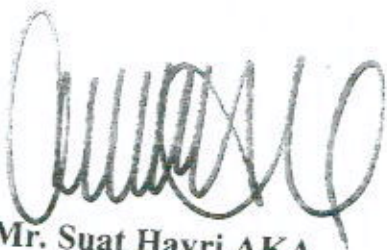


Done in Baku on 3rd of July 2013 in three original copies in English language.



Mr. Elchin MIRZAYEV
General Director
Baku International Sea Trade Port

Mr. Kairiden NURKENOV,
Representative of the Authorized Person
Aktau International Trade Sea Port



Mr. Suat Hayri AKA
Deputy Undersecretary
Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
of the Republic of Turkey



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