

Distinguished fellow colleagues,

First, I would like to thank UNECE for inviting the Chinese delegation to attend the Meeting as observer. I am delighted to have this opportunity to share views and experience with relevant countries and international organizations. Over the years, China has made a lot of efforts to promote the development of transport industry. Meanwhile, we have also made great efforts in fostering the connectivity with the neighbouring countries and a close transport link between Europe and Asia for the common economic, social and transport development of Euro-Asian countries.

Next, I would like to say a few words about international cooperation in the field of land transport.

First, China hosted the second Asia-Europe Transport Ministers Meeting in 2011. Nearly 400 delegates from 36 Euro-Asian governments, 5 international organizations and 46 Euro-Asian businesses attended the meeting. The delegates under the theme of “Asia-Europe connection: green, secure and efficient” held intensive discussions about the challenges, future development and direction facing the transport between Asia and Europe. The meeting highlighted the seamless connection between all

modes of transport and transport facilitation and adopted Chengdu Declaration and its Action Plan.

Second, China has signed 14 bilateral and multilateral road transport agreements with 11 neighbouring countries. These agreements mainly concern the cross-border and transit transport between and among the relevant countries. Besides, under the Transport Ministers' Meeting Mechanism of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), China has also played an active part in the development of International Road Transport Facilitation Agreement of SCO Member States, which is expected to be signed this year.

Third, under the Transport Coordination Committee of CAREC, China has also contributed to the adoption of the Strategy for the Central Asia Transport Development 2008-2018 and the Implementation Action Plan for the Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy. The Action Plan for the includes, inter alia, the establishment of 6 transport corridors: namely, Europe – East Asia, the Mediterranean Sea - East Asia, Russia - Middle East and South Asia, Russia - East Asia, East Asia - Middle East and South Asia and Europe - Middle East and South Asia, to facilitate transport and trade between the countries in the region and improve the connection between the

region and other nearby major regions. At present, this Action Plan is under way, with road infrastructure projects connecting China and Mongolia, China and Central Asia countries being launched on full scale.

As for the multilateral agreements and treaties, China is a party to the Inter-governmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the Inter-government Agreement on the Pan-Asia Railway Network under the auspices of UNESCAP. China is actively involved in the development of the Inter-governmental Agreement on Dry Port. On top of these instruments, China is now working towards the ratification of the TIR convention. We are also looking at the possibility of ratifying other international facilitation convention.

Dear delegates,

The early realization of Euro-Asian Transport Linkage and transport facilitation will be beneficial to the economic and social development of Euro-Asian countries. However, we are also aware that there still exist in practice many difficulties to be tackled. The Chinese government greatly appreciates the measures taken by UNECE in this respect. We support the actions proposed by the countries, international organizations

and financial institutions and endorse the Joint Statement on Future Development of Euro-Asian Transport Links. China is ready to work with all the interested parties to make more contribution to the economic development and social progress in the region.

Thank you for your attention!