

Joint Declaration of the V-4 Ministers of Transport

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport of the Czech Republic,

The Minister of Economy and Transport of the Republic of Hungary,

The Minister of Infrastructure of the Republic of Poland, and

The Minister of Transport, Post and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic

recognizing the importance of the co-operation in transport sector between the V-4 states;

aware of challenges in transport development within European Union;

taking into account the Joint Declaration of the Ministers Responsible for Transport in the States of the V-4 (Čejkovice, 6 February 2004);

bearing in mind the Joint Declaration on Development of Combined Transport signed by Ministers of Transport in V-4 states in Bratislava, on April 3, 2003;

taking into account the work of groups of experts;

acknowledge the information included in the reports of the group of experts and presented by respective Ministers;

declare their satisfaction with the good co-operation between the V-4 states in the transport sector;

agree to continue common activities in the field of transport particularly in the following areas:

Railways

The Ministers support the activities of experts group and agree that the Polish side will chair this group in the future. The Ministers decide that further co-operation in the railways should focus on the following areas:

- co-operation in the field of interoperability of railway transport between V-4 states;
- facilitation of railway border crossings;
- consultation on EU Railway Packages II and III legislation in V-4 countries;
- exchange of views on the draft of new EU legislation on the regulatory framework on public service obligations.

Combined transport

The Ministers declare their commitment to development of combined transport in V-4 states what would lead to diminishing the negative impact of transport on environment, decrease the volume of road freight traffic and exploitation of road infrastructure. To this end the Ministers support continuation of co-operation between V-4 states on expert level with the aim to:

- exchange information and best practices about combined transport;
- define the demands of combined transport and propose specific actions to be taken in improving infrastructure which can facilitate the further development of intermodal transport;
- collect comparable statistical data on combined transport;
- exchange information and opinions about Marco Polo I and II and look for possible co-operation in that field;
- share experience with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Efficient road infrastructure charging

The Ministers affirm the importance of the co-operation of efficient road infrastructure charging experts of V-4 countries and decide that it should be continued based on regular experts meetings with the aim to:

- create common mechanism of implementation of *the Directive 2004/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the introduction and interoperability of electronic road toll systems in the Community*;
- seek unified methodologies of road infrastructure charges collection taking into consideration the political and economical cohesion of the region;
- deepen co-operation with countries that have already implemented electronic road toll systems.

The Ministers recommend also further exchange of views on the draft of *the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures* (Eurovignette).

Road safety

The Ministers taking into account the importance of road traffic safety and necessity to reduce the number of road traffic accidents in their countries support close co-operation with the objective to:

- advocate the common interests of the V-4 states, which shall be harmonised with the EU policy and programs;
- exchange information and best practices among V-4 experts through special website created and operated by the Czech Ministry of Transport;
- exchange information on projects, research, surveys and materials of public campaigns which could be adopted and run in each member-state;
- strengthen the co-operation with Central, Eastern and Southern European countries.

The Ministers agree that the first priority item for co-operation would be Seatbelts and Child Restraint Devices.

Co-operation in implementation of the Corridor VI and beyond

The Ministers decide to continue further co-operation in the area Pan – European Transport Corridor No. VI and beyond, particularly its links with Corridor IV and V.

In the framework of this co-operation the Ministers declare further common activities in the area of development, promotion and growth of transit role of Corridor VI and its links with Corridor IV and V as a part of the crucial North- South transport axis in V-4 region.

Further co-operation concerning Corridor VI will be mainly based on the works within Steering Committee of the Pan-European Transport Corridor VI and bilateral contacts.

Galileo Global Navigation Satellite System

Taking into account the importance of GNSS-Galileo the Ministers underline their intention to co-operate closely within the framework of Visegrad Group in this area.

A working group should be established for the purpose of enabling the information exchange concerning the status of the preparation for the implementation of the Galileo program in V-4 states with the aim of identification of the possibilities for designing joint public sector projects of V-4 states which will use the Galileo system.

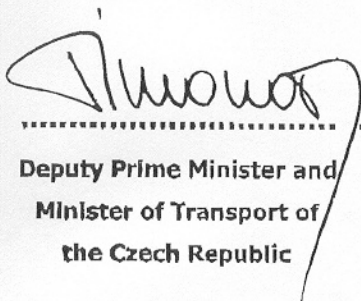
In order to facilitate the co-operation of enterprises and research and development organizations of V-4 states the Ministers decide to arrange a workshop for the relevant entities for the purpose of establishing a long-term co-operation. The

Ministers have welcomed the offer of the Czech Republic to arrange the workshop using the opportunity of the international conference on Galileo in Prague on October 2005.

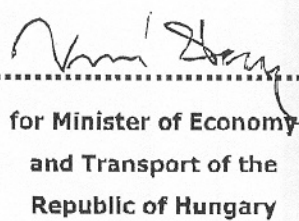
The Ministers are aware of up to now heritage reached commonly by the Visegrad Group in field of transport. They declare continuation of creation of its positive image, as well as to endeavour to reach optimal benefits brought by the regional co-operation within the V-4 states.

The Ministers affirm that present forms of co-operation in the field of transport bring benefits for each V-4 state, therefore they express the will for its continuation in similar way.

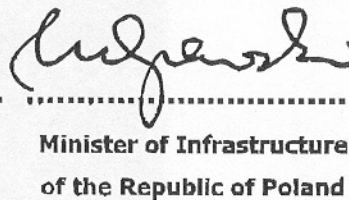
Done in Straszyn, Republic of Poland, on 18 March 2005 In four originals in the English language.



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**Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Transport of
the Czech Republic**



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**for Minister of Economy
and Transport of the
Republic of Hungary**



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**Minister of Infrastructure
of the Republic of Poland**



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**Minister of Transport, Post
and Telecommunications
of the Slovak Republic**