

Sochi Declaration

June 3, 2016

On June 3, 2016 Sochi hosted a meeting under the auspices of the Railway Silk Road Cities Forum. *The Cities as Stations of a Future Eurasian High-Speed Metro* meeting was attended (personally or by video conference) by: Mario Virano, General Manager of TELT SA; Piero Fassino, Mayor of Turin and President of the Forum; Aleksey Tsydenov, Russian Deputy Minister of Transport; Alexander Misharin, First Vice President of Russian Railways; Anatoly Pakhomov, Mayor of Sochi; Azer Mursaliev, Editor-in-Chief of Kommersant Vlast; Ernest Sultanov, Forum Coordinator; Wolfgang Dik, representative of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany; Eng. Eugenio Muzio, intermodal transport expert.

Meeting Highlights:

- high-speed passenger rail systems are present in all large Eurasian countries and have performed well to the benefit of the railways, cities and passengers;
- *Eurasian High-Speed Metro for Passengers and Freight Transportation* is a large-scale project with an ambitious goal to align current activities and facilitate implementation of a strategic project to link Eurasian cities by HSR lines within the shortest time.

Meeting Statements:

1. The top-priority HSR initiatives taken by various Eurasian countries should be coordinated for best results, including in terms of interoperability and integration.
2. A city who seeks to be incorporated into the large HSR metro project need to build necessary economic environment and infrastructures, including underground transit stations so as to preserve the city's appearance and reduce stop time for train at station.

The HSR will also open up new opportunities for freight transportation. Specifically, it will afford to:

1. Overcome the 160 km/h speed threshold for new freight bogies.
2. Build logistics centres, i.e. facilities with terminals equipped for intermodal transportation located outside the city centre with an access to the new freight HSR.
3. Create an environment to encourage more active railway transportation between Europe and Asia, including initiatives to address the gauge issue (terminals

equipped with high-capacity overhead cranes for bogie change) and improve bureaucratic procedures and regulations to accelerate traffic and avoid long stops.

The initiatives will be discussed in a feasibility study planned by the MIR Initiative and supported by the Railway Silk Road Cities Forum and the participants of “METRO of the METR: White Book on the future of mobility in the region”. New infrastructure projects, including the new Silk Road's lines and corridors, will also be designed.

Once implemented, the initiatives will transform the Great Silk Road as a historical heritage into a new reality – *Eurasian High-Speed Metro for Passengers and Freight Transportation*.