

**Railway Silk Road Cities Forum held another meeting to address
“Development of the Eurasian Freight Metro”
on October 19, 2016 in Turin
and adopted the following
STATEMENT**

Railway Silk Road Cities Forum is already playing a significant role in the establishment of the new structure of high-speed railway passenger service between the cities-stations of the “Eurasian metro”.

At the meeting held on October 19, 2016 in Turin, the Forum’s participants discussed the relevant project of the Eurasian metro for freight service between the cities in order to propose practical ideas and projects for the utmost contribution to the use of new “caravans” – container trains – to enhance exchange of the goods, including with regard to high environmental consciousness requirements.

The Forum does its best to consolidate the efforts of public authorities, railways, intermodal operators, logistics and transport professionals, producers of goods, research and scientific organizations as well as local and regional authorities for the purpose of elaborating and implementing the measures required to push through the project of the Eurasian freight metro.

The Forum has already taken an active part in the implementation of the following initiatives:

- launch of the intermodal railway transportation service (primarily, for chemical products) in swap and tank containers between the Western Europe and Russia. Currently, this type of transportation in the scope of some 20,000 containers a year is provided almost exclusively by sea and road;
- reaching an agreement on and assisting in the implementation of the important project of intermodal freight service between Kazan and Harbin. Here, the project is not only aimed at a specific increase in goods exchange, but also at a systemic and pragmatic convergence of these two remote, but meaningful cities in the context of gradual establishment of the new cultural and economic reality in Eurasia.

In view of the above, all the attendees of the Forum meeting held on October 19, 2016 in Turin agreed that:

- 1) Thanks to the mutually beneficial and close dialogue between the Forum and RZD that was mentioned in the opening speech delivered by the President of Russian Railways at the 1520 Summit in Sochi, the nearest future shall witness the creation of technical and economic conditions for the transformation of traffic flows of swap and tank containers for chemical products in the first place between the Western Europe and Russia into more environmentally friendly intermodal transportation;
- 2) The Forum will keep on developing new projects for the exchange of container trains between its member cities in close cooperation with the interested urban and regional authorities, rail companies and intermodal carriers.
- 3) The Forum in cooperation with representatives of business and authorities will do its best to arrange trips along the Railway Silk Road routes for cultural figures, journalists, representatives of cities and other interested persons in order to expand public support of the project of the Eurasian metro for freight and passenger service.
- 4) Set up the Forum's Research and Education Centre at Moscow State University of Railway Engineering (MIIT) according to the proposal made by the Association of Russian Higher Transport Schools.