



Joint Statement

of Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States

We, the Transport Ministers and representatives of the member countries of the International Transport Forum (ITF) participating in the second ITF High-level Dialogue for Ukraine, **re-affirm** our unwavering support for Ukraine. This continues and builds on expressions by the group of ITF member countries in their *Call to Action on the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine* in 2022, Joint Statement in 2023 and taken forward in the dedicated discussions at the two Special Ministers' Roundtables on Ukraine at the ITF Summits held in Leipzig, Germany, in May 2022 and May 2023, and the High-level Dialogue for Ukraine held in Rzeszów-Jasionka, Poland in March 2023.

Two years into Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine, the attacks against Ukraine's civilian and infrastructure objects have only intensified, gravely affecting Ukrainian transport networks and critical energy infrastructure. Continuous disruption of freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and weaponizing food by deliberately targeting Ukraine's grain storages and related facilities are particularly worrying. These actions add to food insecurity on a global scale.

We recognize that the illegal and unjustifiable actions by Russia, aided by Belarus, continue to constitute a direct breach of the foundations and principles on which the ITF was built, including social inclusion and economic prosperity through sustainable transport policies.

We also observe with concern, that Russia's war of aggression has a serious and growing impact on Ukraine's neighbors, regional countries, and global security and stability, inter alia, by causing a major disruption of global supply chains.

We recognize that reliable transport networks, the diversification of transport corridors, and ever-increased connectivity are of pivotal importance for stable supplies of goods and materials, economic stability, and resilience. In order to enhance access to global connectivity for Ukraine, we consider the development of new transport axes connecting the continent's North and South to be essential.

We take note of the enormous damage incurred by the aggression on Ukraine's transport infrastructure which amounts to more than 33,6 billion USD, as the estimates by international institutions show.

At the same time, **we welcome** the resilience of Ukraine's transport sector, noting the ongoing work by Ukraine's government and transport agencies to maintain and repair transport infrastructure to ensure mobility and connectivity despite the war.

We appreciate the ITF's ongoing efforts to further mobilize support for Ukraine's transport system. We welcome the latest move and the establishment of the Common

Interest Group for Transport in Ukraine (CIG4U) in Kyiv in December 2023 by four ITF member countries - Canada, Lithuania, Sweden and Ukraine.

We welcome the establishment of CIG4U as a format and platform in which like-minded **member states of the ITF** work together to shore support for Ukraine's transport sector, and we take note that CIG4U aims to support both Ukraine's immediate and longer-term transport needs. The CIG4U was established to coordinate support for Ukraine's identified needs not only with national stakeholders, but also with the international transport community at large, including the private sector. We welcome the presence of representatives of international organisations in this and future ITF High-Level Dialogues for Ukraine.

We also stress that the CIG4U is an open platform and call to ITF members sharing its goals to join the group and actively contribute to its activities.

We welcome all those who have already made contributions to CIG4U activities, as well as ITF members' bilateral support to Ukraine for broader transport reconstruction and recovery initiatives. We invite others to consider supporting the work of the group to support Ukraine's priorities.

We also welcome Ukraine's presented proposals for projects where the ITF and its member countries have expertise, and, where feasible, can play a coordinating role in implementing.

We are pleased to note the growing interest in CIG4U activities by our respective countries' industries and financial institutions. It is significant that this meeting is organised as a back-to-back event with the 3 Seas Initiative's Summit and its Business Forum, enabling participants to further boost synergies and joint efforts to address Ukraine's needs.

We acknowledge the implementation of connectivity projects that will boost competitiveness, contribute to the diversification of value chains, and reduce strategic dependencies, including critical materials.

We also acknowledge that the land transport corridors have been playing a steadily growing role in helping Ukraine to receive critical supplies and export its goods and we should continue to develop alternative routes, via the enhancement of horizontal and vertical connectivity throughout the continent. Specifically, we emphasize the special role of extended EU's Trans-European Transport Corridors (TEN-T), notably the North Sea – Baltic and Baltic Sea – Black Sea – Aegean Sea Corridors, including components of Via Carpatia, Rail Carpatia, along with Rail Baltica, and their potential extensions, as well as the development of new railway lines. When combined with maritime and air transport routes, and connecting Baltic Seaports, Adriatic Seaports, Aegean Ports, North Sea Ports and Ukrainian Ports, these routes create integrated multimodal transport corridors and significantly enhance Ukraine's global connectivity.

We support the further development of essential transport infrastructure in the region. The European Union – Ukraine Solidarity Lanes have helped to create alternative transport corridors and to ensure international food security. The development of more resilient infrastructure has been encouraged by the extension of the previously

referenced TEN-T network to the territory of Ukraine and Moldova. It allowed for mapping new alignment between Ukraine and the North Sea-Baltic Corridor, Ukraine and the Rhine-Danube Corridor and between Ukraine and the Aegean Sea ports, via the Baltic Sea- Black Sea – Aegean Sea European Corridor (BBA). In addition, the new transport corridor linking the Black Sea and North Adriatic Sea be explored to further strengthen connectivity in this part of Europe. Joint efforts of the international community and Ukraine's creation of the Black Sea humanitarian corridor and development of the Danube River routes significantly restored the maritime trade and dramatically increased Ukrainian grain exports as well as other agricultural products to levels not seen since Russia's brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

We also agree on the need to focus on seeking ways to further support transport market operators, paying due attention to the interest of all countries involved, and being mindful of preserving the EU regulatory framework and internal market integrity.

We note that resilient transport infrastructure, enhancement of connectivity, and reconstruction of Ukrainian infrastructure, destroyed by the Russian aggressor, as well as infrastructure connecting Ukraine through neighboring states with the world requires an appropriate level of financing from international financial institutions.

We count on the continuous involvement of ITF member states in the reconstruction of Ukrainian infrastructure and enhancement of its global connectivity.

Memorialized in Užutrakis, Lithuania, on April 10, 2024