



**COUNCIL OF
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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Lithuanian delegation

To: Council

Subject: - **2nd ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting in Chengdu (China)
24-26 October 2011**

- *Information from the Lithuanian delegation*

The first ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting took place on 19-20 October 2009 in Lithuania. The Ministers of Transport of the ASEM member states (the European Union member states and the Southeast Asia states, i.e., the People's Republic of China, Japan, India, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Singapore, amongst others) and high officials of the European Commission, in all, the delegations of 35 states, took part in the inaugural ASEM Transport Ministers' meeting.

The Vilnius Declaration on closer Asia-Europe co-operation in the field of transport was adopted at that meeting. By this document ministers agreed on:

- strengthening interregional cooperation towards the development of balanced, effective, safe transport and growth of the global economy;
- the elaboration of the ASEM Action Plan of Asia–Europe transport development and formulation of joint policy guidelines by developing Asia–Europe transport corridors.

The main topic of the Ministerial meeting this year is "Asia-Europe connect: green, safe and efficient transport" in the format of which it is planned to discuss the following issues:

- the management of transport crises;
- the safety and security of transport;
- future transport: innovations, new technologies;
- piracy;
- "green transport": challenges of climate change in the field of transport;
- the development of Asia and Europe markets as well as the extension of inland corridors.

The Chengdu Declaration and the Action Plan are documents to be adopted at the Ministerial meeting. Business representatives from Asia and Europe will be invited to discuss together with the Ministers. Thus, the recommendations of the business representatives will add to the shaping of the common Asia-Europe transport policy vision.

Lithuania, as the initiator of this cooperation format, invites the EU Member States to actively partake in the second ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting in China on 24–26 October 2011. As informed by the Chinese part, the invitation to the Ministerial meeting should reach the responsible Ministers in no time.
