

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. Welcome to the Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum, OSCE-UNECE Roundtable.

Security is a complex issue. It involves a lot of elements that can contribute to reducing the risks, by reducing the threats or reducing vulnerability; through 4 kind of actions – the so-called 4 P's – : Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare. To Prevent illegal acts by tackling their underlying causes; to Pursue the authors of illegal acts; to Protect the public and the infrastructure; and to Prepare for the consequences of an illegal act and improve resilience.

This means that security is provided by the joint efforts of a lot of actors: diplomats, social workers, intelligence services, the judicial powers, the police, border control, emergency services, and so on. The transport sector has to act for its own protection, but an efficient transport security policy can only be reached by a global approach to all these security aspects.

Transport is a complex issue also, with specificities for each transport mode, and specific security aspects for each of them. This is true, of course, for the different transport modes defined as inland transport modes as well.

But one thing is common for definite: today, inland transport security is a universal problem. All over the world, freight carriers are confronted on a daily basis with cargo crime, transported dangerous goods can be transformed into lethal weapons, and the threat of bomb attacks on public transport cannot totally be excluded in any place in the world.

The International Transport Forum of the OECD dedicated a session of its annual summit this year to security in transport. A conclusion of this panel is that

international cooperation is essential. And I quote one of the panellists from the private sector: "joint development of security measures must be the goal".

Ladies and gentlemen,

The present Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum organised by OSCE and UNECE as a common Roundtable, is a perfect illustration of this international cooperation at intergovernmental level.

The item "transport security" has been part of the respective agendas of OSCE and UNECE for several years now, and I had the opportunity to participate in the activities organised by both organisations on this subject.

Therefore, I am very pleased that the cooperation between OSCE and UNECE gives me the opportunity to chair the first day of the present Roundtable. It's a real honour for me.

This event could not have been organised without the support of the staff of the hosting organisation – OSCE – and without sponsorship. So let me thank them all, in the name of all participants, with special thanks to the two main sponsors: the Republic of Kazakhstan and Belgium. With this support, both countries reiterate their interest in the topic of transport security, they put forward during their respective chairmanships of the OSCE in the last few years and they confirm that they consider transport security as an important issue.

So, I warmly thank the Belgian government and Mr Suleimenov, the government of Kazakhstan, for their financial support.

Mr Usen Suleimenov is Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE and I now give him the floor for the opening session of the Roundtable.

Thank you.