

**THE DECLARATION
ON DIGITAL FREIGHT TRANSPORT DATA EXCHANGE
AMONG THE EASTERN BALTIC SEA REGION AND EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTNERS**
Vilnius, 5 November 2020

We, the Ministers for transport and digital affairs of the Eastern Baltic Sea Region (EaBSR) and Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, gathered at the International Transport Innovation Forum “Digital Transformation in Logistics: Trends That Will Play a Key Role in the Future” on 5 November 2020 which was chaired by the Minister for Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania,

Having regard, among other initiatives, to:

- the Declaration signed during the 3rd Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy, by which Ministers expressed the commitment to enhance eGovernment via digital innovation and piloting of Digital Transport Corridors;
- the EU4Digital initiative, the first Eastern Partnership wide Action, supports swift and effective implementation of reforms in the EaP partner countries for further developing the digital economy and society, in line with European Union norms as appropriate, including legislation, standards and best practices;

Aiming at boosting interregional cooperation in the field of digital economy, including the harmonisation of digital markets (HDM) among the EaBSR and EaP partners by:

- *highlighting the importance* of scaling up the existing good practices of the EaBSR states in the field of electronic freight transport information exchange across borders;
- *recognizing the need* for enhancing cooperation between the EaBSR and EaP countries in the field of digital economy in order to speed up the development of Digital Transport Corridors;
- *acknowledging the utmost importance* to ensure timely implementation of EU policy objectives emerging from EU Regulation on electronic freight transport information (eFTI), which establishes a legal framework for safe, secure and fully interoperable exchange of information between business and authorities and scale up it to EaP countries;
- *being convinced* that an interoperable cross-border system for the exchange of electronic freight transportation information, using the existing building blocks (EBSI, eDelivery and eIDAS) from the Connecting Europe Facility would mark a significant step towards the Harmonisation of Digital Markets;

Hereby have declared our readiness to endorse the following objectives and actions and invite countries and all parties concerned to:

- *speed up* the development of Digital Transport Corridors by scaling-up successful EU initiatives, namely, the Digital Innovation Network (DIGINNO) project, which developed cross-border eCMR model and piloted it in EaBSR countries to EaP countries;
- *establish* an international Task Force group of experts to explore possibilities of implementing EU good practices in the area of digital freight transport data exchange in the EaP countries;
- *initiate* knowledge sharing and mutual learning related to legal, technical, organizational means of cross-border exchange of electronic documents recognized by public authorities;
- *continue working* together with a view to achieve further concrete results in areas that will benefit the citizens of the Eastern Partner Countries and the EaBSR.

This Joint Declaration is not intended to create new financial obligations, or rights or obligations under international or domestic law, or to amend rights or obligations resulting from existing agreements.