

**LETTER OF INTENT**  
**BETWEEN THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF**  
**THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN,**  
**THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**ON PROMOTING AND FACILITATING TRADE AMONG SILK ROAD COUNTRIES**

On the occasion of the Fifth International Forum on the Role of Customs Administrations on Promoting and Facilitating Trade among Silk Road Countries convened in Istanbul on 29-30 November 2012, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Republic of Turkey issue this Letter of Intent which is intended to further enhance the multilateral cooperation between the countries in an effort to make the Silk Road faster, simpler, more secure and preferable for international trade.

The Parties to this Letter of Intent,

*Recognizing the close cultural, social, trade and economic relations between the countries;*

*Emphasizing the significance of expanding the flow of trade and investments as well as improving overall economic activity in the Silk Road Region;*

*Desiring to eliminate obstacles to the efforts on creating a preferable international trade route in the Region,*

*Bearing in mind the fact that customs administrations of Silk Road Countries have a major role in increasing the great trade potential of the region;*

*Reaffirming the importance of cooperation regarding the development of trade relations between them; and*

*Acknowledging the importance of the Silk Road which was the system of trade routes lasted for many centuries connecting Eastern and Western civilizations through the Ancient and Middle Ages;*

have reached an understanding on the following remarks:

#### § 1

It is of vital importance to collaborate through joint efforts in order to facilitate, simplify and secure border-crossing and to reduce waiting times through efficient and expedite customs formalities on the trade routes in the Silk Road Region.

#### § 2

Creating modernized border crossing points (BCPs) to implement simplified and accelerated border-crossing procedures through the Silk Road Region is an essential matter aimed at helping Silk Road to be a favourable environment for trade.

#### § 3

The parties welcome the successful fulfillment of the Component I of the Caravanserai Project by which the study on '*Determination of Silk Road and BCPs*', '*Current Situation and Minimum standards*', and '*Gaps and needs analysis*' has been completed.

The parties also state their will to sustain efforts to launch the implementation of TIR Electronic Pre-Declaration (TIR-EPD) Green Lanes carried out by the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Republic of Turkey which dedicate lanes on both sides of the border providing exchange of electronic pre-declarations containing all the required cargo and transit data through the system, enabling customs authorities to assess risks and determine which truck should be subject to a specific control in advance.

#### § 4

The Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic acknowledge the importance of the ongoing Caravanserai Project and express their intention to put efforts into the Component II of the Project which is directed to infrastructural development of BCPs in the Silk Road Region, at their convenience.

#### § 5

The parties recognize the essence of compliance with the international standards on trade and transport facilitation as well as Single Window concept and Authorized Economic Operator principle, and intend to continue their endeavour in this sphere.

§ 6

The parties intend to collaborate and make efforts on a network of exchange of customs declaration data within an interoperated information technology system as foreseen within the scope of the Caravanserai Project.

§ 7

The parties commend on and further encourage the collaboration between their customs and transport authorities with regard to initiatives that enhance the cooperation as well as the efforts with a view to obtaining tangible results from the Silk Road.

This Letter of Intent has been made in five identical copies in English and signed in İstanbul on the twenty-ninth day of November of two thousand and twelve by:

**Sefer MEHDIYEV**  
First Deputy Chairman  
State Customs Committee  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Merab ARAKHAMIA**  
Deputy Head  
Customs Department,  
Georgia Revenue Service

**Mulkin SEİTGALI**  
Deputy Chairman  
Customs Control Committee  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan

**Zamirbek MALABEKOV**  
First Deputy Chairman  
State Customs Service  
of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Mehmet GÜZEL**  
Deputy Undersecretary  
Ministry of Customs and Trade  
of the Republic of Turkey