

MARIA DAMANAKI

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MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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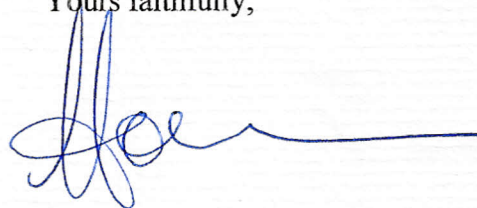
Dear Minister, *Dear Binali,*

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 11th Meeting of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications Forum which will take place on 5-7 September 2013, in Istanbul.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments, I will be unable to attend.

I wish to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for a successful event.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Binali YILDIRIM
Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
06338 Emek - Ankara
Republic of Turkey



Economic Cooperation
Organization

Secretary General

No. SG/TC/Istanbul Forum/1343
7th August 2013

Excellency,

I would like to thank Your Excellency for inviting me to the 11th Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications Forum to be held in Istanbul on 5-7 September 2013.

As Your Excellency is aware, a number of huge infrastructure development projects have been successfully put in place and going on in the ECO region. The developments came as a result of well thought out policies of governments of the member states.

ECO, being transformed into a sound platform, is playing a lead-role in assisting the member states to link up national policies with regional plans and initiatives. Notable headway has been achieved in various sectors, where the transport sector has been playing a key role in interconnecting the region.

Among ECO's major initiatives in the transport sector, the ECO Silk Road Caravan 2010, ECO Container Trains on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul, Istanbul-Almaty and Bandar Abbas-Almaty Routes are being recognized even beyond the region. We are grateful to the governments of the member states for providing strong support to these projects.

I am sure that upcoming Istanbul event will provide an excellent platform to have a constructive dialogue on the challenges of this important sector and new partnership opportunities.

Unfortunately I will not be able to participate in this important Forum due to prior engagement in another ECO event, scheduled for these dates. Mr. Altaf Asghar, Deputy Secretary General, will represent the ECO in the event.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your health and well-doing.

Yours Sincerely,

Ambassador Shamil Aleskerov

His Excellency
Mr. Binali Yildirim,
Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications
Ankara

Mr
Binali Yildirim
Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs
and Communication
Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communication
Hakkı Turaylıç Caddesi No:5 Emek/Ankara
TÜRKIYE

GZ. BMVIT-100.132/0063-I/K1/2013
DVR:0000175

Vienna, 28th August 2013

Dear Minister Yildirim!
Dear Colleague!

First of all I would like to thank you very much for your kind invitation to the Forum "The Future of Global Transport and International Investment Opportunities" to be held on the 5th - 7th of September this year in Istanbul.

Unfortunately, due to other obligations I will not be in a position to participate at the abovementioned meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Doris Bures
Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology