



## Joint declaration of the Prime Ministers of the Visegrad Group countries for cooperation to develop a high-speed railway network in Central Europe

*Budapest, the 21 of June 2018*

*RECOGNIZING the importance of improving the connectivity and accessibility of the major cities and regions of Central Europe in order to promote economic development, territorial cohesion and sectoral cooperation in areas such as employment, culture and tourism;*

*RECALLING that infrastructure development, including the North-South axis, plays a key role in increasing the cohesion and competitiveness of Central Europe, and contributes to a fully functioning single European market;*

*SEEKING joint solutions to modernize the transport network of the V4 countries with a particular focus on developing a high-speed and interoperable railway network that will link the capital cities of the V4 countries while also connecting them to other major cities of the region;*

*PROMOTING environmentally-friendly modes of transport contributing to the achievement of ambitious emission reduction goals and supporting sustainable development;*

*SUPPORTING innovations as well as development and deployment of new technologies in transport and transport-related areas;*

*AIMING to create a modern, fast and efficient railway network based on the guidelines of the European Union on the development of the trans-European transport network.*

WE, THE PRIME MINISTERS OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES CONVENING IN BUDAPEST ON 21 JUNE 2018, HEREBY DECLARE OUR INTENTION TO:

Cooperate in identifying solutions and specific measures to minimize train travel times between Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest and assess the feasibility of developing a high-speed railway network connecting these cities;

Set up a working group tasked with overseeing the assessment of the feasibility of the high-speed railway network project, and with coordinating the exchange of information and the joint efforts of the V4 countries in relation to the project;

Jointly explore and identify the possible sources of financing required for the preparation and implementation of the project. The Government of Hungary has allocated EUR 5 million as a contribution to assessing the feasibility of the project;

Encourage the neighboring countries to consider planning their railway developments in cooperation with the V4 countries with the intention of developing a Central European high-speed railway network.