Steffen Bilger
Member of the German Bundestag
Parliamentary State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure

Speech to be given at the Ministers’ Forum

as part of the Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference in Peking

Friday, 15 October 2021, Peking (joining digitally) (Redezeit 4 Minuten)
• Minister Li,

• Esteemed colleagues,

• Ensuring climate-friendly, smart and affordable mobility is Germany’s key priority for the future.

• We have committed to combating climate change at national and international level.

• Germany aims to be greenhouse gas-neutral by 2045.
• Our guiding principle is that investments to combat climate change are investments in growth, employment and emerging markets.

• The Federal Cabinet adopted the **2022 Immediate Action Programme for Climate Protection** in June 2021.

• Of its over **eight-billion-euro** budget, one billion euros is earmarked for upgrades to climate-friendly transport infrastructure.

• We are pursuing specific **climate-related measures**.

• **First:** We are transitioning passenger transport and heavy road
haulage to **alternative drivetrains**.

- By 2030, zero-emission vehicles – such as battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles – will be the new normal.

- **Second:** We are strengthening climate-friendly **shipping**.
- We shift carriage of abnormal loads from roads to waterways, promote zero-emission vessels and develop green propulsion technologies.
• We expressly support the International Maritime Organization’s initial strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

• **Third:** We are championing **rail** – for both passenger and freight services.

• In Germany, we initiated the Rail Freight Masterplan, among other instruments.

• But this is not only a national matter, since **many transport operations** are international.
• Only **through effective cooperation across state and continental borders** can we modernize rail freight and shift more traffic to rail.

• We are making significant steps forward in passenger services as well, as demonstrated by the Trans Europe Express 2.0.

• Our goal is to improve rail travel throughout Europe.

• **Fourth:** We continue to upgrade **cycling infrastructure** and focus on innovative projects to make urban cycling safer.
• **Fifth**: Air transport must also become more sustainable: Our goal is to make flying carbon-neutral and green.

• We can already limit emissions from air transport using sustainable alternative fuels and market-based measures.

• Additionally, unmanned aviation systems have the potential to significantly contribute to green and sustainable air transport.

• One thing is certain:

• To put in place **sustainable climate change mitigation solutions** –
and to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic – we need **coordinated action** at European and international levels.

- Therefore, we welcome the **measures presented by the European Commission**, especially those in response to the pandemic and climate change, targeting economic recovery and the new **Global Gateway initiative**.

- Europe will take a **value-based approach to** strengthen the links to its partners – **without creating dependencies**.
- **Transparency and good governance** ensure that better links contribute to **healthy growth and prosperity** and thus **help combat poverty**.

- We can only meet the challenges of the future **by working together**.

- Thank you very much and greetings from Germany!