



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**22 December 2016**

# **A significant day for Istanbul's traffic MARKING A NEW EPOCH IN TRANSPORTATION, PASSAGE OF VEHICLES STARTS AT EURASIA TUNNEL**

**As of 07:00 a.m. on 20 December 2016, passage of vehicles started at the Eurasia Tunnel which connects the Asian and European continents for the first time via a twin-deck road tunnel crossing from under the seabed. People showed a strong interest to the opening of the Eurasia Tunnel.**

Eurasia Tunnel started accepting its first passengers as of 07:00 AM on 20 December 2016 following a splendid opening ceremony joined by the President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım.

There was a strong interest from the people and the media for the Eurasia Tunnel's opening to traffic. A driver named Ömer Keşoğlu reached and started waiting at the toll booths at 0500 in the morning just to become the first to pass the Eurasia Tunnel, which he managed. The employees of the *Avrasya Tüneli İşletme İnşaat ve Yatırım A.Ş.* (Eurasia Tunnel Operation, Construction and Investment Inc. - ATAŞ) welcomed with flowers those waiting to cross the Tunnel. The first 1,000 people crossing the Tunnel from the Asian and European sides were also given the Eurasia Tunnel key holders and the Tunnel's security brochure as a gift.

### **Practical information about the Eurasia Tunnel:**

- The Eurasia Tunnel covers a total of 14.6 kilometers between Kazlıçeşme and Göztepe. All of this road goes inside a tunnel, while 5.4 kilometer part of it passes from under the seabed.
- The toll of the Eurasia Tunnel has been fixed as **TL 15** for the automobiles, and **TL 22.5** for minibuses.
- The revenue to be obtained from the Eurasia Tunnel between 22 December and 1 January will be deposited to the Ministry of Family and Social Policy for donating to the families of the martyrs.
- In the Eurasia Tunnel, only one lane will be used in each way until the required integrations are completed. All four lanes in the two ways will be opened by the next week.



- Eurasia Tunnel will be in service for 14 hours between **07:00 and 21:00** hrs. until at the latest 30 January 2017. The Tunnel will start working on 24-hour basis from 30 January as planned.

### **Security is at maximum level in Eurasia Tunnel**

- Uninterrupted communication is provided and information flow in emergency situations is ensured thanks to the emergency telephones which are present every 100 meters along the Tunnel, public announcement system, radio announcements and GSM infrastructure.
- Egress rooms located at every 200 meters along the Tunnel will be used as security rooms or for access to the secure deck in the Tunnel. The Tunnels are all completely separate and insulated from one another.
- Specially-designed patrol cars and motorcycles are well-equipped to respond to all types of possible accidents at the Eurasia Tunnel.

### **Eurasia Tunnel is monitored from the control room on a 7/24 basis**

- Eurasia Tunnel and its vicinity is monitored with 400 cameras on a 7/24 basis.
- The traffic flow inside the Tunnel is monitored for 24 hours by 10 operators and supervisors positioned inside the traffic control room.
- Duly equipped and trained first responders who will be on duty on a 7/24 basis at the portals and inside of the Tunnel have got the capacity to intervene any possible incidents within minutes. These teams of first responders are managed from the control center.
- The operators work in liaison with Istanbul Fire Brigade, 112 Ambulance Center, police department, and Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD).

### **The project of the firsts and records**

- The Eurasia Tunnel which has been on the spotlight globally since its first conception due to its location, technical superiorities and multi-faceted characteristics has reduced intercontinental trip to only five minutes. This giant project could be completed and opened to service 8 months before its planned date in 4 years with 14 million man/hours of 700 engineers and more than 12,000 workers.

### **About ATAŞ ([www.avrasyatuneli.com](http://www.avrasyatuneli.com))**

Avrasya Tüneli İşletme İnşaat ve Yatırım A.Ş. (ATAŞ) was founded in 2009 in order to build the Bosphorus Road Tube Passage Project by Yapı Merkezi (leader) of Turkey and SK E&C of South Korea. Yapı Merkezi is among the leading construction companies of Turkey and the world implementing universally leading projects based on its 50 years of experience and knowledge in large-scale contracting works. SK E&C is the construction and engineering branch of SK Group, the third largest



business group of South Korea. Yapı Merkezi and SK E&C are global companies which implement very successful infrastructure and transportation projects in diverse regions of the world.

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