

Euro-Asian Transport Links Project, Phase III

*Workshop on Transport Infrastructure Corridors along Europe and Asia
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, 30th session
Geneva, 4-6 September 2017*



Goal of the Phase III

Identify measures to enhance the operational capacity of the inland transport links between Europe and Asia



Report of the phase III

- I. Euro-Asian trade routes and freight flows;
- II. Initiatives, project and studies along EATL routes;
- III. Main obstacles hampering the development of Euro-Asian Transport Links;
- IV. Euro-Asian Transport Links; Looking into the future; and
- V. Conclusions and recommendations.



Findings

Markets created new opportunities (e.g. e-commerce) that can drive freight flows on inland routes between Europe and Asia



Integrated supply chain management

Intermodality

Flexible routing

Role of nodes

Regular service



Findings

Railway transport is developing on EATL routes – importance of block trains

But

There is a need to make railway more competitive ie.:

- remove existing infrastructural gaps, and

more importantly

- **To adjust to requirements of modern supply chains**

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Findings

Road transport does not operate on long distance

Development and implementation of a mechanism for long distance road transport was necessary - Role of International Agreement under Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Implementation of same standards (axle load, weight and dimensions) and availability of standard-compliant infrastructure

Road transport role? local/regional to complement long-distance rail?

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Findings

Continuous progress and development has been made (numerous projects)

However

More progress and development is necessary!

Where? → Address non physical barriers

Bottlenecks: border crossings (delays mainly to process inefficiencies), availability of permits, visa procedures, legal regimes, poor service, little flexibility for routing, uncompetitive and changing tariffs

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Way forward

EATL have their strengths and there are opportunities for further development at the same time

EATL have their weaknesses and there are threats

What to do?

- **Build on strengths,**
- **Address weaknesses,**
- **Seize opportunities, and**
- **Minimize threats**

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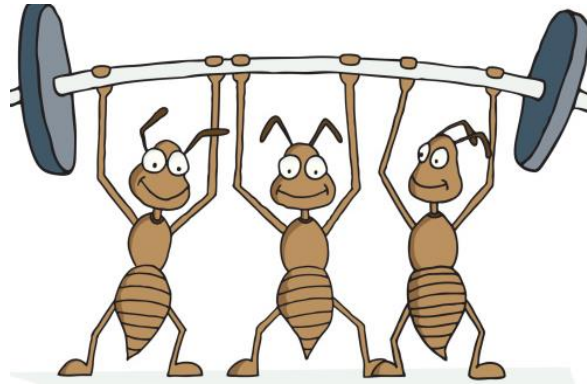
Regular service



Way forward

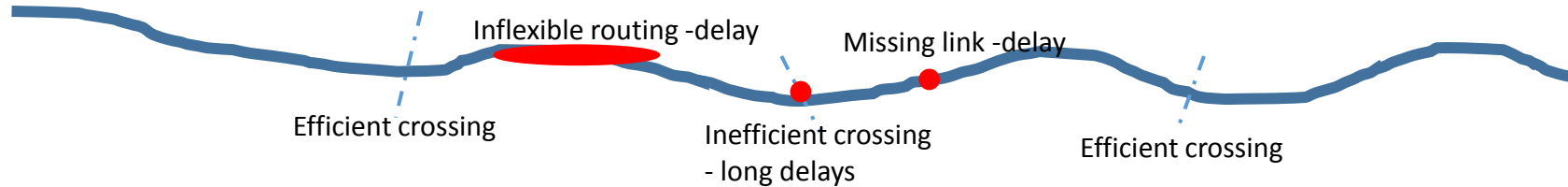
Remember: Each EATL route is as good as its weakest point

COOPERATION!
COORDINATION!



What to do?

- Build on strengths,
- Address weaknesses,
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- Minimize threats



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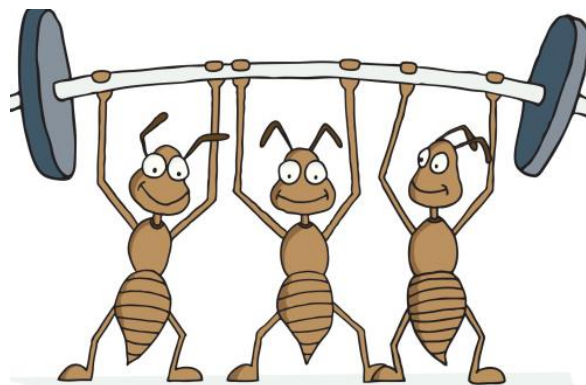
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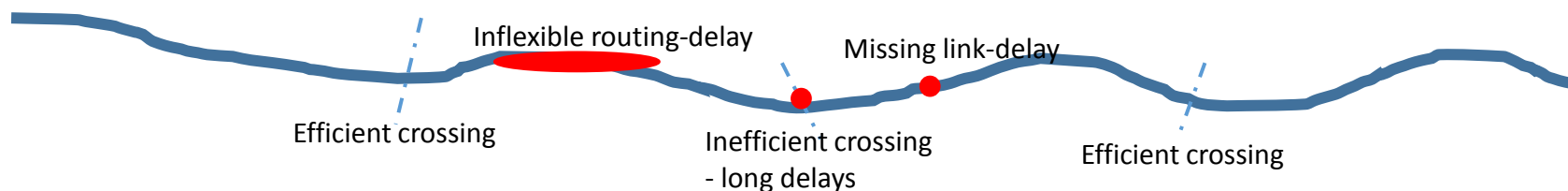
Way forward

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COORDINATION!**



What to do?

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Cooperate and coordinate to: harmonize transport policies, facilitate procedures and standards along routes, continue to improve infrastructure

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TRANSPORT

