



UNITED NATIONS  
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**SWOT Analysis for EATL Inland Transport  
Connections**

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**Slide 1**

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# Introduction of SWOT Analysis

- SWOT stands for: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
- A quick and simple tool to understand the overall big picture
- Analyzing strengths, minimize threats, take advantage of opportunities
- Can be used for decision-making enabling proactive thinking
- Starting point of strategic planning
- It may be subjective – therefore see it as guide and not a prescription

Strengths and weaknesses look internally. Help identify what a project can do  
Threats and opportunities are external. Help see beyond the project walls

**Strengths:** In relation to “competitors” and from “customers' perspective”

**Weaknesses:** Any existing limitation

**Opportunities:** Influence by external environment

**Threats** new products; price competition; economic pressure

Threats can become opportunities or vice versa



# EATL Inland Transport Connections' SWOT analysis

## Strengths

1. Shorter distance than maritime
2. Important transport option for LLDCs in the region
3. Main priority routes and projects have been identified
4. Unutilized capacities in some road and railway routes
5. New transport infrastructure being constructed
6. Some inland routes most preferable and most economic
7. Integral part & physical extension of important networks
8. High political commitment for EATL
9. Partnerships are being developed among key players



# EATL Inland Transport Connections' SWOT analysis

## Weaknesses (1)

1. Transport costs too high compared with maritime
2. Quality of services low compared with maritime
3. Inadequate multimodal transport integrated in main supply chains
4. Imbalance of trade flows poses more problems than to maritime
5. Many physical and non-physical barriers render transport operations difficult, costly, time consuming and uncertain
6. Absence of harmonized road customs transit regime in all countries
7. High transit tariffs, fees and fiscal charges
8. Transport restrictions, rules and procedures changed without notice
9. Wide spread of corruption
10. Safety concerns and lack of security to international operators



# EATL Inland Transport Connections' SWOT analysis

## Weaknesses (2)

11. Some border posts poorly equipped and some closed
12. Road permit quotas reducing competition- visas
13. Not competitive rail rates
14. Transport monopolies still in place
15. Heterogeneous transport and transit rules and regulations
16. Limited institutional and human resource capacities
17. Inaction, non coordination or insufficient action in addressing non physical obstacles
18. Non devotion necessary investment in developing priority transport infrastructure
19. Weak part in one country render a whole route economically unviable



# EATL Inland Transport Connections' SWOT analysis

## Opportunities

1. Globalization increase transport of goods (Europe and Asia) - Further rapid growth of China & India offer new opportunities
2. EU – Asian Pacific regions expected to resume growth
3. Time sensitive transit can be redirected through inland routes
4. Go West: The Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region (XUAR) development programme, designed to use inland routes
5. Congestion of main ports and hinterland routes offer new openings
6. Customs Union (Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan) and the expected removal of the internal borders
7. Accession of Russia and Kazakhstan in TWO
8. Expanding the CIM/SMGS consignment note along EATL routes
9. Container shipment via Suez Canal reaching its maximum capacity - alternative maritime route increase ships costs and transit time
10. Increased security concerns along existing maritime routes
11. Important tool for socio-economic development of EATL countries
12. Increased progress in regional co-operation and integration



# EATL Inland Transport Connections' SWOT analysis

## Threats

1. Continued offer of competitive transport costs by maritime
2. Call for more efficient transport systems due to recent economic crisis
3. The expected opening of the Arctic North-West passage for container traffic
4. Cost-reducing innovation in the air transport sector
5. Increasing economic nationalism, conflicts and political instability





# Conclusions

- ✓ Identified strong and weak EATL points, existing potential and threats
- ✓ Confirmed that the recommendations of the EATL Study are still valid
- ✓ Stressed the need for cooperation/coordination in developing priority infrastructure and joint efforts for transport and transit facilitation
- ✓ Highlighted the importance of EATL EG
- ✓ **EATL development potential lies upon:**
  - their capacity to become parts of the main supply chains,
  - functioning complementary among various transport modes,
  - focusing on the end-to-end transport cost-and-time efficiency and reliability, and
  - on urgent facilitation and cost/time-reducing transportation measures and reforms in EATL transition economies



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*A weak part or missing link in one country  
can render a whole EATL route economically  
unviable for international transport*

**Thank you!**