Euro-Asian Transport Linkages: Phase II

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China-Europe trade: 99 per cent maritime-based (by weight)

Air and sea transport: avoiding borders is faster or cheaper and more reliable

Speed of delivery: road/rail niche

Freight costs and scheduled transit times, China to Western Europe, (40 foot container or equivalent)

EATL Phase I: 2003-07

• A UN global project to develop interregional transport linkages, implemented by five UN regional commissions

• EATL implemented by ECE and ESCAP over 2003-2007

• Objectives:
  Identify Euro-Asian inland transport links
  Prioritize EATL investment projects
  Investigate non-physical obstacles
  Support capacity building at national level

• Participants: 18 Euro-Asian countries (AF, BG, CIS, CN, IR, RO, TR)
EATL project 2003-2007

To address inadequate infrastructure, internationally un-harmonized transport rules and costly, time-consuming border crossing procedures.
EATL Ministerial Meeting

70th session of the Inland Transport Committee, February 2008

- Joint Statement on Future Development of EATL
- Endorsement, support, continuation, follow-up
EATL Phase II

- Group of Experts to monitor and co-ordinate EATL developments
  - established in 2008 at the UNECE

- Funding obtained (2008-2010)
  - contribution by the Russian government

- Solid interest
  - 26 European and Asian governments participating
EATL Phase II – summary of results

• **EATL Group of Experts**
  - three EG sessions since September 2008
  - two sessions planned in Central Asia in 2010

• **Capacity building (share experience, exchange good practices)**
  - with ECO, Tehran, April 2009
  - with the Government of Turkey and BSEC, Istanbul, Nov. 2009

• **Challenging work plan**
  - co-ordinated transport infrastructure planning (collect, evaluate and prioritize national data)
    - assess the economic viability of inland transport (relative to sea shipping)
    - identify non-physical obstacles to transport, recommend ways to remove them
North-South demonstration block train run

- A 4,500 km land bridge from the Baltic states/St. Petersburg to the port of Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf
  - a project proposal requested by the EATL EG in November 2009
  - to be discussed and approved by the EG in April 2010
  - potential participants: Baltic States, Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran
  - beneficiaries: Turkey, Central Asian countries
  - funding of $75-100K currently being sought