The Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project was jointly implemented by UNECE and UNESCAP in 2002-7. It has continued by UNECE since 2008 as a group of experts with an open invitation for UNESCAP. Its current phase on operationalization is managed through the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5). It is participated by 38 countries in Asia and Europe.

**Major Achievements to Date**

- **Analysis**: Analysis of non-physical obstacles to transport
- **GIS**: Geographical Information System (GIS) database
- **Routes**: 18 EATL rail and road routes and 17 inland waterway transport links, 52 inland river ports and 70 seaports
- **Projects**: 311 infrastructure priority projects with a total cost of US$ 215 billion
- **Connectivity**: Supporting intra- and inter-regional transport connectivity
- **Study**: Comparison study between maritime and inland transport

*Connect 59 Chinese cities with 49 European cities across 15 countries
*Container volumes jumped almost 30 per cent per year
*Numerous national capacity-building workshops on transport facilitation
*Average cost per 40-ft container reduced from US$ 9,000 in 2010 to US$ 4,000
*More accessions to the UN transport conventions*
EATL Phases

**Phase I**
Identification of physical/non-physical barriers and routes, prioritization of development projects

2002–2007

**Phase II**
Consensus on routes and ports, assessment of investment, development of GIS application with database

2008–2012

**Phase III**
In-depth analysis and comprehensive recommendations on policy, infrastructure development, facilitation and institutions

2013–2017

**Phase IV**
Operationalization to make transport between Europe and Asia safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly

2018 –

Way Forward to Operationalize EATL for Sustainable Connectivity

investment in infrastructure: International Transport Infrastructure Observatory, Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs, priority EATL project list, agreements on transport infrastructure

Facilitation of operation: UN conventions on facilitation of cross-border/transit transport, Unified Railway Law, bilateral and sub-regional agreements on transport

Security: UN Customs Convention on Containers, ADR, TIR, CTU Code

Protection of environment: UN agreements on vehicle regulations, dangerous goods and perishable foodstuffs, ForFITS, climate change adaptation

Promotion of road safety: UN conventions on road safety, ITS, National Road Safety Systems, UN SG’s Special Envoy for Road Safety, SafeFITS

EATL Platform on Sustainable Transport Connectivity (WP.5): for policy dialogues, experience sharing, coordination, cooperation and recommendations among governments, international organizations, multilateral development banks, non-governmental organizations, academia and transport operators

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