OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

CENTRAL ASIA INVEST
BOOSTING SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

Funded by the European Union

EU Prosperity Programme

Enhancing the Competitiveness of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor in Central Asia

Focus on Uzbekistan

Workshop, Wednesday, 6 November 2024, 14.30-16.30
Within the context of the "*European Economic Days in Uzbekistan*"
Hilton Tashkent City, Tashkent 1&2 Hall, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

DRAFT

Scan to access our latest publications on Central Asia

OECD Eurasia
Competitiveness Programme

OBJECTIVE: MONITOR THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE TRANS-CASPIAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR IN CENTRAL ASIA

Following the publication of *Realising the Potential of the Middle Corridor*, the OECD is launching **with EU financial support** a new project, which aims to provide an **evidence-based monitoring of progress made in operationalising the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) in Central Asia** since 2023. It will **assess recent improvements** in terms of trade facilitation and regulations, upgrading infrastructure, and co-ordination since 2023, and **identify areas where there is room for progress** across the five countries of Central Asia. **In particular, it will survey the private sector to assess its perception of progress achieved and remaining roadblocks to make the TCTC more competitive in Central Asia.**

BACKGROUND

The Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) has received renewed attention[1]. Whilst governments along the TCTC have invested significantly to improve hard and soft connective infrastructures, bottlenecks remain due to the complex geography of the route, the number of border crossings and insufficient regional co-ordination. As a result, its capacity is only a fraction of that of the Northern route via Russia[2], and it remains less attractive in terms of cost and predictability **from a private-sector standpoint.**

OBJECTIVE OF TODAY'S EVENT

During this workshop, the OECD will introduce the project objectives and approach, including the planned survey, will discuss the state of play of the TCTC in Uzbekistan, and will collect feedback on the latest developments and challenges to feed into the analysis.

PARTICIPANTS

This event will bring together **policymakers** responsible for the design and implementation of **policies to improve trade and transport connectivity** in Uzbekistan, including stakeholders from relevant ministries and organisations (e.g., Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade, Uzbekistan Railways etc.), as well as from **the private sector**. Other participants will include the EU, EU countries' embassies, and development partners supporting the TCTC's operationalisation.

TIMELINE

- **Autumn 2024**: the OECD develops and collects answers to questionnaires, fills information and data gaps through online fact-finding meetings with government and private sector stakeholders;
- **October 2024-January 2025**: the OECD organises country-specific working groups to collect data in the 5 countries of Central Asia;
- **Spring 2025**: the OECD refines the findings and recommendations;
- **Q2/Q3 2025**: high-level launch of the final publication.

ABOUT THE DONOR

This project is financed by the European Union as part of its **EU Prosperity Programme in Central Asia**, which aims to create an inclusive business environment and advance the connectivity agenda of Central Asia through the operationalisation of the Trans-Caspian corridor, and internationalise Central Asian businesses.

CONTACTS

Mr Grégory Lecomte
Head of Central Asia Unit, OECD Eurasia
gregory.lecomte@oecd.org

Ms Céleste Laporte Talamon
Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia
celeste.laportetalamon@oecd.org

Ms Anna Chahtahtinsky
Programme Coordinator, OECD Eurasia
anna.chahtahtinsky@oecd.org

[1] According to the TITR Association, the TCTC registered an 86% increase in transportation volumes between 2022 and 2023.

[2] The current capacity of the TCTC is estimated to be at most 5% of the volumes transiting the Northern route (Rail Freight, 2022[107]).

DRAFT AGENDA

Participants should register through the following link.

Moderator: Mr **William Tompson**, Head of the OECD Eurasia Division

14.30-14.45 Opening remarks

- Mr **Henrik Hololei**, Hors Classe Adviser, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission
- Mr **Laziz Kudratov,** Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan (tbc)
- Mr **Mamanbiy Omarov**, First Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan

14.45-14.55 Project introduction

- Mr **Grégory Lecomte**, Senior Policy Analyst and Head of the Central Asia Unit, OECD Eurasia Division

14.55-15.40 Tracking progress in trade facilitation and regulatory improvements
Focus on Uzbekistan

- Ms **Céleste Laporte Talamon**, Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia Division

A representative from the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade will respond and comment on the government's reform priorities to simplify regulatory frameworks.

- Mr **Davron Dekhkanov,** Head of the Transport Corridors Department, Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade

A representative from Clever Logistics will share the EU private sector's perspective on issues related to trade facilitation.

- Ms **Vasilisa Dzehtsiarenka**, Chairperson of the Board, Clever Logistics

Open discussion
Participants are invited to provide comments and questions.

15.40-16.25 Tracking progress in upgrading infrastructure and enhancing multimodality
Focus on Uzbekistan

- Ms **Céleste Laporte Talamon**, Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia Division

Representatives from the government of Uzbekistan will comment and describe the government's efforts to address critical bottlenecks and improve multimodality in the country.

- Representative from the Ministry of Transport (tbc)

A representative from ADB will present on-going efforts to develop the TCTC in Uzbekistan in the rail and road sectors.

- Mr **Khurshidbek Murodov**, Officer, Transport operations, ADB

Open discussion
Participants are invited to provide comments and questions.

16.25-16.30 Concluding remarks