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

Focus on the Kyrgyz Republic

Wednesday, 23 April 2025, 15.00-17.15
Novotel Hotel, 16 Manas Ave, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

DRAFT

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OBJECTIVE: PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON RECENT PROGRESS MADE IN MAKING THE TRANS-CASPIAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR MORE EFFICIENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

Following the publication of Realising the Potential of the Middle Corridor (2023), the OECD, with EU financial support, launched a project in late 2024 to **identify recent improvements and remaining bottlenecks on the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC),** with a focus on the five countries of Central Asia. The project assesses trade facilitation, regulatory improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and coordination in recent years. It has also surveyed the governments and private sector to gauge their respective perceptions of progress and identify challenges impeding the TCTC's competitiveness.

BACKGROUND

The Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) **experienced a 63% increase in goods traffic to reach 4.1 million tons in the first 11 months of 2024**[1]. Yet, it is estimated that it handles less than 10% of the Northern Corridor's capacity. 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**. Uncertainties in terms of cost and predictability alter the corridor's attractiveness from a private-sector standpoint.

OBJECTIVE OF TODAY'S EVENT

During this workshop, the OECD will present its preliminary findings on the state of play of the TCTC in the Kyrgyz Republic and will collect feedback from participants to refine the analysis.

PARTICIPANTS

This event will bring together **policymakers** responsible for the design and implementation of **policies to improve trade and transport connectivity** in the Kyrgyz Republic, including stakeholders from relevant ministries and organisations (e.g., Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Customs Service, Ministry of Digital Development, etc.), as well as from **the private sector**. Other participants will include the EU, embassies from EU and OECD countries, and development partners supporting the TCTC's operationalisation.

TIMELINE

- **Autumn 2024**: the OECD develops and collects answers to questionnaires with government and private sector stakeholders.
- **October 2024-May 2025**: the OECD organises country-specific working group meetings to collect data in the 5 countries of Central Asia, drafts the report and takes part in regional consultation meetings to collect feedback on the preliminary findings.
- **Summer 2025**: the OECD refines the report and recommendations.
- **Autumn 2025**: high-level launch of the final publication at the Third EU-Central Asia Economic Forum

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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 drive further connectivity and economic integration between Central Asia and the European Union.

CONTACTS

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[1] Source

DRAFT AGENDA

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

14.30-15.00	**Welcome and registration**
15.00-15.10	**Opening remarks**

- Mr **Hans Farnhammer,** Head of Co-operation, Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic
- Mr **Sanzharbek Bolotov,** Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic

15.10-15.15	**Project introduction**

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

15.15-15.55	**Tracking progress in trade facilitation and regulatory improvements** *Focus on the Kyrgyz Republic*

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

Representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Commerce and the Ministry of Digital Development will respond and comment on the government's trade facilitation reform priorities.

- Mr **Aidarbek Samykbayev**, Head of the Customs Policy and Infrastructure Development Division of the Customs Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Commerce

A representative from ITC will share updates on on-going work to support trade facilitation in the Kyrgyz Republic.

- Ms **Adelina Harunjen,** Associate Trade Facilitation Officer, International Trade Centre (ITC)

A business association will share views on recent improvements and challenges to trade on the TCTC.

- Representative from a business association (tbc)

Open discussion

15.55-16.35	**Tracking progress in upgrading infrastructure and enhancing multimodality** *Focus on the Kyrgyz Republic*

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

A representative from the Ministry of Transport and Communications will react and describe the government's efforts to address infrastructure bottlenecks, improve border crossings in the country.

- Mr **Akbar uulu Daniyar**, Chief Specialist of the Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications

A representative from ADB will share updates on its work in infrastructure development to support the integration of the Kyrgyz Republic on the TCTC.

- Representative from ADB (tbc)

Open discussion

16.35-16.45	**Concluding remarks**
16.45-17.15	**Networking coffee**