



ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ ТҮНГҮШ ПРЕЗИДЕНТІ – ЕЛБАСЫНЫҢ ҚОРЫ  
ФОНД ПЕРВОГО ПРЕЗИДЕНТА РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН – ЛИДЕРА НАЦИИ  
THE FOUNDATION OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN –  
THE LEADER OF THE NATION



EURASIAN TRANSPORT  
INTEGRATION  
ASTANA - 2014

Freie Universität  Berlin

Berlin Centre for Caspian Region Studies  
**BC CARE**



## International Conference

### Eurasian Transport Integration (ETI)

**Transcending energy- new synergies for a new world  
between geopolitical challenges, business opportunities and future perspectives**

**Astana, 12-13 November 2014, “Nazarbayev Center”, 10 Enbekshiler St.**

*Organizers: Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP) under the First President Foundation of Kazakhstan in partnership with the Berlin Centre for Caspian Region Studies (BC CARE) of Freie Universität Berlin.*

The five Central Asian states, as well as two of the three post-soviet Caucasus Republics (Georgia being the exception) share a common geographic constrain: being landlocked, their integration in the world market has been the most relevant issue for the domestic elites in the 20 years after independence.

While in the energy sector, some of the most resource-rich central Asian and Caucasian states have been able to partially diversify their transportation routes and thus reach the European and the Asian markets partially freeing themselves from the Russian network, similar attempts in developing trans-continental and trans-regional transportation corridors for non-energy, non-liquid goods remained behind expectation. Notwithstanding the external push toward an integration of Central Asia in the world markets via development of new transportation routes in order to turn the “central “ geographic position in a political and economic asset, until very recently these attempts failed.

Starting from the early 2000, first slowly and then more rapidly in recent years, the possibility for the central Eurasian region to fully exploit its geographical central position has become a more viable and long-term alternative for escaping the tyranny of both geographic isolation and oil and gas export dependency.

The re-focusing of national and regional elites on tapping the potentials of the region as a transit bridge between rapidly growing Asia and the European consumer market has become the leitmotiv of domestic and international political rhetoric. The Sino-European trade exchange has reached a new peak, the Chinese economic growth and the political and



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economic re-orientation toward the “inner Asian frontier” seems to offer for the first time after centuries a concrete possibility for the central Asian countries to play – again - the card of transport and trade bridge between the two poles. In this process Kazakhstan has profiled itself as the most active and successful actor.

This transcontinental trend, however, has fuelled a macro-regional or “continental” trend which stretches from Asia (and India) to south-eastern Europe, Turkey, East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula and not directly involves Western Europe. The unprecedented growth of Turkey, the rising interest of Iran for the Asian vector, the renewed interest of Moscow for trade and economic integration with some Central Asian states and the increasingly trade interaction between the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa with the Asian Pacific Region and India marks the re-emergency of “long dormant Inner-Asian connections” (Calder, 2012), which, expanding well behind energy, seems able to shape more deeply and more durably the geopolitical and geo-economic settings of the continent.

At the centre of these trends lies the key issue of the further supranational integration of national transport infrastructure systems (rail roads, ports and dry ports) and logistics (new services and products), mainly in those regions, as Central Asia, which have been until now excluded from this development and where high transportation cost-among others- still pose a crucial barrier to trade and commercial integration.

While a lack of coordination among the involved actors, geopolitical rivalries and rapidly changing economic conditions may aggravate already existing problems, ongoing projects at national, supranational and international level in the transportation sectors in Central Asia, Southeast Asia, Southwest Asia and Central Europe shows that the issue of improving the physical connectivity and the interconnectedness of the continent has been taken increasingly serious by policymakers and business operators. Single projects in single countries come to make economic and political sense if observed by a broader, continental perspective, so that the issue of transport connectivity will be crucial for Eurasian geopolitics and geo-economics fate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The complexity and the broadness of the topic require a deep understanding of trends, challenges, perspectives, existing problems and solutions which involve policy makers, business representatives, international and regional organizations and academics.

The present international conference is the first of its art, offering for the first time a platform for exchange and discussion for representatives from business, politics and academia from a wide range of national, supranational and private institutions in order to figure out geopolitical



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challenges, business opportunities and future prospective of the Eurasian transportation markets and contributing to find common solutions to the existing problems.

Accordingly, main questions which will be addressed by the Conference are as follows:

- *How are new economic integration attempts and the present geopolitical crisis on the Eurasian continent affecting economic cooperation and transcontinental transport interconnectedness?*
- *Are ongoing integration initiatives in Eurasia transportation sector at continental, national and regional level mutual excluding or mutual reinforcing? What challenges and chances derive from each project and how can these projects being coordinated?*
- *Which initiative shows the most economic rationality and has more chances to be implemented?*
- *What is the transportation potential along the transcontinental Europe-China and continental-regional corridors (China-Central Asia-Turkey-Iran-Middle East. Perspective role of the Af-Pak complex)*
- *How do private companies, national and international logistic companies assess the present development?*
- *Is the development of integrated multimodal logistic services the key for domestic, regional and continental connectivity?*
- *Which business solutions do logistics companies and forwarders offer, which problems do they face?*



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## PROGRAM

<b>Wednesday, 12 November 2014</b>	<b>First Day</b>
<b>09.00-10.00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
10.00-10.45	<p><b>Greetings &amp; Opening Remarks</b>  <b>Dr. Sultan Akimbekov</b>, Director, IWEP, Kazakhstan  <b>Prof. Dr. Lutz Mez</b>, Director, BC CARE/CREES, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany  <b>Dariga Nazarbayeva</b>, Vice Speaker of Majilis (Lower House of the Parliament), Republic of Kazakhstan, Head of the Parliament fraction “Nur Otan”, Chairman of the Foundation of the First President of RK - Leader of the Nation  <b>Aset Isekeshev</b>, Minister for Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan  <b>Kamen Velichkov</b>, Charge d’Affaires, European Community Office in Kazakhstan  <b>Moderators: Dr. Sultan Akimbekov</b>, Director, IWEP, Kazakhstan, <b>Prof. Lutz Mez</b>, Director, BC CARE/CREES, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany</p>
<b>10.45-11.15</b>	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.15-13.00</b>	<p><b>General Session: Eurasia between economic integration and geopolitical challenges</b>  <b>Dr. Sultan Akimbekov</b>, Director, IMEP, Kazakhstan  <b>Kairat Kelimbetov</b>, Chairman of the National Bank of Kazakhstan  <b>Prof. Yury Shcherbanin</b>, Doctor of Economics., Head of Laboratory of the Institute of Economic Forecasting of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia  <b>Abdulla Khashimov</b>, CEO Deputy, „Intellectual Transport Systems – Central Asia“, Tashkent, Uzbekistan  <b>Moderator: Prof. Frederick S. Starr</b>, Chairman, Central Asia - Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, USA</p>
<b>13.00-14.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14.30-16.00</b>	<p><b>First Session: Existing overland East-West corridors of integration: A General assessment</b>  <b>Wu Wenhua</b>, Vice President, Institute of Comprehensive Transportation, National Development and Reform Commission, China  <b>Azad Garibov</b>, Research Fellow, Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan  <b>Yerkhat Iskaliev</b>, CEO, KAZLOGISTICS, Kazakhstan  <b>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Lutz Mez</b>, Director, Berlin Centre for Caspian Region Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany</p>
<b>16.00-18.30</b>	<b>Final Remarks</b>
<b>19.00</b>	<b>Dinner (Rixos Hotel)</b>



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<b>Thursday, 13 November 2014</b>	<b>Second Day</b>
<b>9.30-13.00</b>	<b>Second Session: Developing Corridors of Integration</b>
<b>9.30-11.00</b>	<b><i>Central Asia, the Caucasus and the reactivating Middle Corridor: Potential and perspectives. Political and economic assessment</i></b>
	<b>Erdem Direkler</b> , Deputy General Director, Permanent Representative (National Secretary) of the PS IGC TRACECA in Turkey, Turkey/Europe <b>Amb. Giorgi Badridze</b> , Senior fellow, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, Georgia <b>Viktor Prodedovich</b> , Director, Regional Economic cooperation project, USAID, Almaty <b>Moderator: Dr. Sultan Akimbekov</b> , Director, IWEP, Kazakhstan
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.30-13.00</b>	<b><i>Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Southern Corridor: problems and perspectives for the route to come. Political and economic assessment</i></b> <b>Prof. Frederick Starr</b> , Chair, Central Asia Caucasus Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA <b>Secil Ozyanik</b> , Expert, TRACECA National Secretariat to the Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Transportation, Turkey <b>Arash Younosi</b> , Balkh Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Afghanistan <b>Moderator: Jacopo Pepe</b> , Research Fellow, BC CARE, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
<b>13.00-14.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14.30-16.00</b>	<b>Third Session: New logistics solutions for a seamless continental transport connectivity: problems, challenges and perspectives to escape the landlocked trap- the view from the business</b> <b>Alibek Zhumatayev</b> , Head of the Department of strategy and marketing, Center of transport logistics «ҚТзһ), Kazakhstan <b>Aleksey Bezborodov</b> , Director, InfraNews, Russia <b>Yasin Arianfar</b> , Ghazanfar Group, Afghanistan <b>Moderator: Prof. Dr. Johann W. Gerlach</b> , President, German-Kazakh University, Kazakhstan
	<b>End of the Conference</b>

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