



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



The UNECE-UNESCAP Project on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages

Jaromir Cekota
Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, UNECE

Dushanbe, 23 October 2007

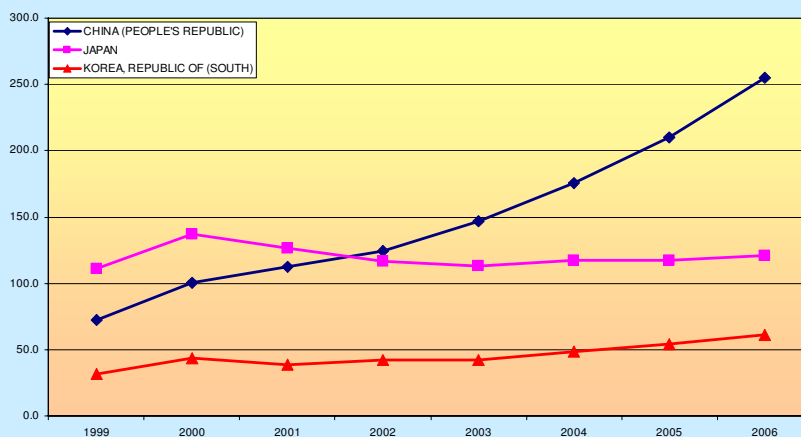
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

1



Introduction

The EU-25 merchandise trade with East Asia
(Billion euros)



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division



Euro-Asian Transport Links

- Part of a UN global project on developing interregional transport linkages, jointly implemented by five UN regional commissions
- EATL implemented by ECE and ESCAP over 2003-2007
- Objectives:
 - Identify Euro-Asian inland transport links (EATL)
 - Prioritize EATL investment projects
 - Investigate non-physical obstacles
 - Support capacity building at national level
- Participants: 18 countries on the Euro-Asian land bridge (AF, BG, CIS-12, CN, IR, RO, TR)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

3



Progress to date

Achievements

- Selection of main Euro-Asian road, rail and inland water routes, transshipment points & ports
- Creation of a GIS database
- Technical assessment of routes and their performance
- Prioritization of projects with agreed methodology
- Analysis of physical and non-physical obstacles
- Organization of 4 expert group meetings and 5 capacity building national workshops

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

4



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

6



UNECE-UNESCAP Euro-Asian Links Project
Inland Water Transport



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division



Prioritization of projects

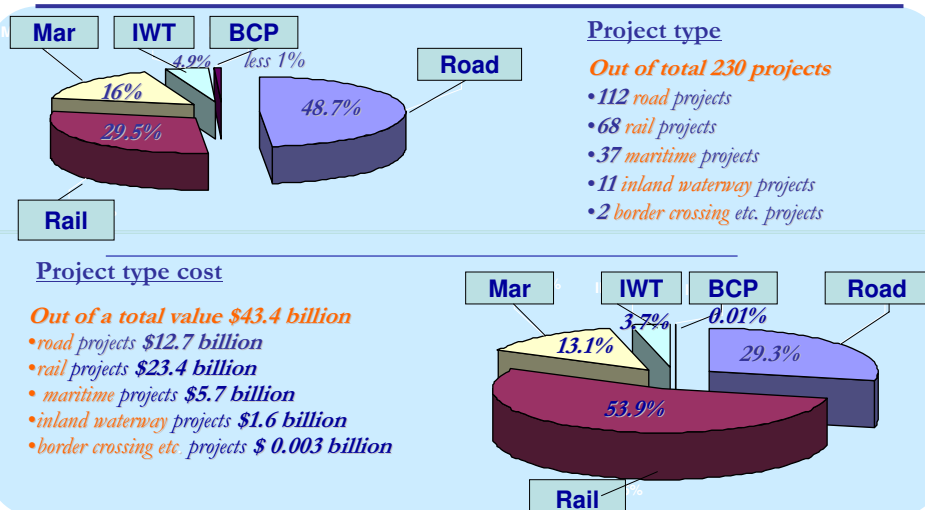
- 15 countries involved, 230 EATL projects
- Total investment of \$43 billion
- Annual investment < 1.5% of GDP in 12 countries
- About 60% of EATL projects have secured funding
- Account for almost 50% of total investment

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

9



Overview of projects



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

10



Non-physical obstacles

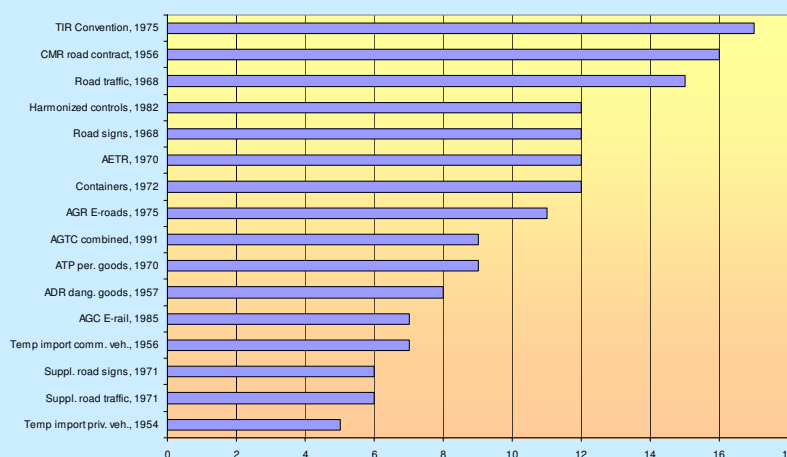
- Identification and analysis of obstacles
- Application of ESCAP time/cost-distance methodology, based on:
 - country inputs
 - uniform questionnaires
- Focus on key UNECE transport-facilitating legal instruments
- Recommended by SPECA PWG-TBC

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

11



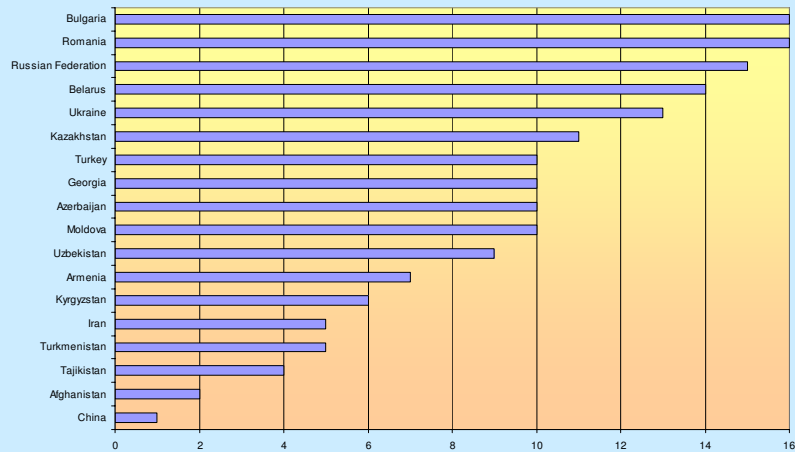
Harmonization by legal instrument



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division



Acceptance by country



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division



Positive but uneven tendencies

Positive trends prevail across the EATL region

- Infrastructure investment enhances productivity
- Border-crossing times tend to improve
- EATL accessions to UNECE transport conventions account for 20% of all accessions in recent years
- Many challenges remain, especially in landlocked countries

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

14



Recommendations

- Joint ECE-ESCAP study on EATL
<www.unece.org/trans/main/eatl/in_house_study.pdf>
- Recommendations:
 - Infrastructure
 - Facilitation
 - Policy



Activities in Phase II (2008-2011)

- Setting up a coordination and monitoring mechanism
- Further development of the GIS database
- Economic analysis of EATL routes
- Improving border-crossing operations
- Promoting harmonization of transport legislation and administrative procedures
- Technical assistance to landlocked countries



Recent decisions

- 20th Session of the ECE WP on Transport Trends and Economics, Geneva, Sept. 2007
- Reiterated support for EATL project
- Proposed monitoring & coordination by ad-hoc Expert Group (2008-09)
- Supported a Meeting of Ministers of Transport at the 70th Session of Inland Transport Committee (Feb. 2008) to endorse the continuation of EATL project
- Asked to be informed about Phase II developments

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

17



UNECE- UNESCAP Euro-Asian Transport Links Project

Thank you for your attention



www.unece.org/trans/main/eatl/intro.html

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division

18