

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

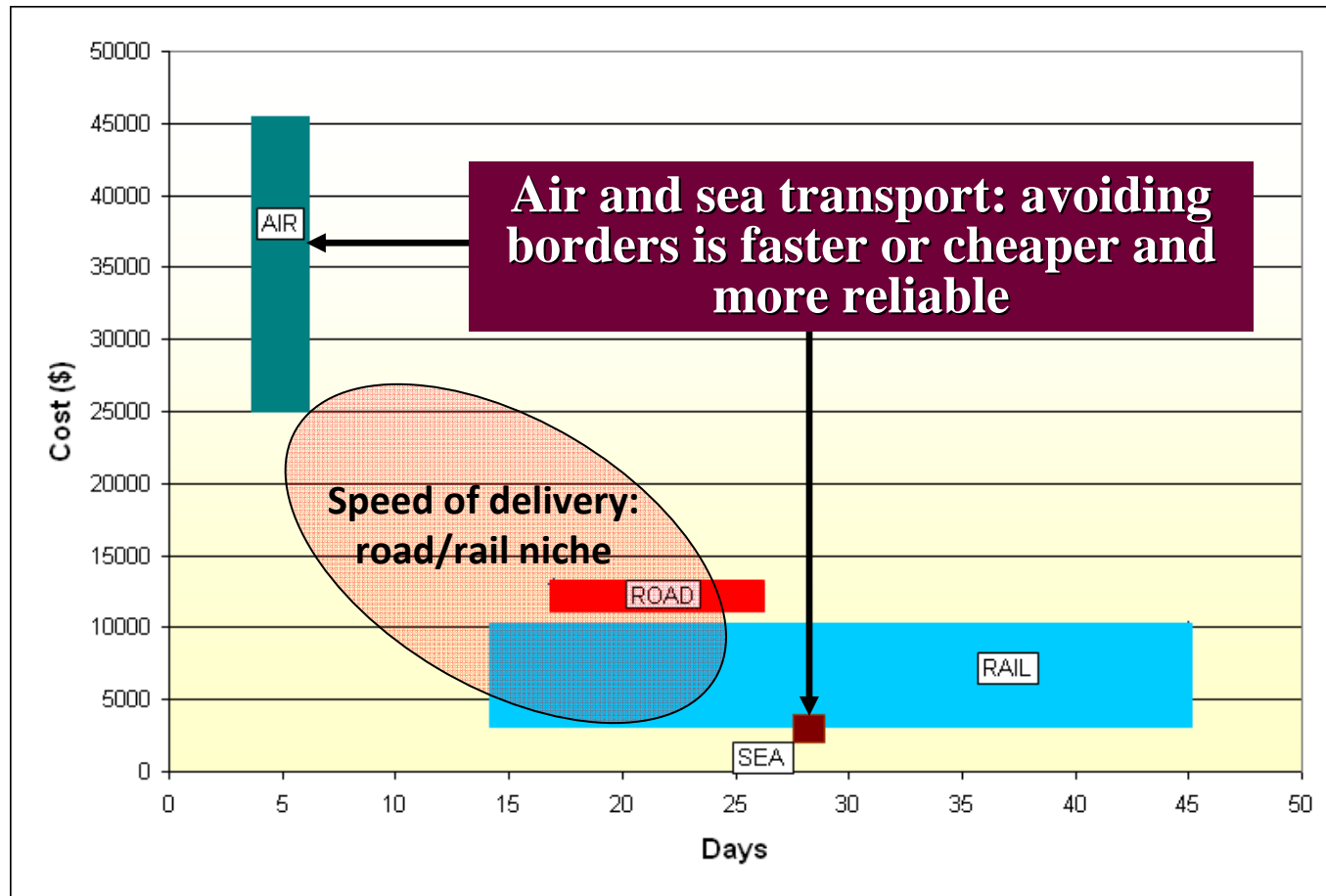


Euro-Asian Transport Linkages: Phase II

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24 February 2010, Geneva

China-Europe trade: 99 per cent maritime-based (by weight)



Freight costs and scheduled transit times, China to Western Europe, (40 foot container or equivalent)

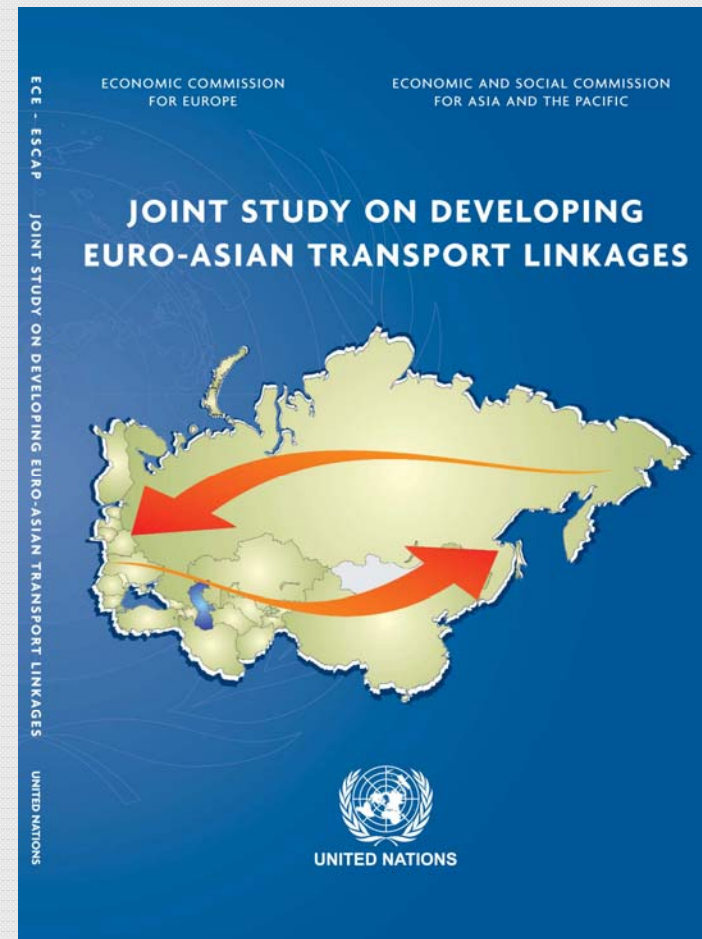
Source: Land Transport Options between Europe and Asia: Commercial Feasibility Study, US Chamber of Commerce, July 2006.

EATL Phase I: 2003-07

- **A UN global project to develop interregional transport linkages, implemented by five UN regional commissions**
- **EATL implemented by ECE and ESCAP over 2003-2007**
- **Objectives:**
 - Identify Euro-Asian inland transport links**
 - Prioritize EATL investment projects**
 - Investigate non-physical obstacles**
 - Support capacity building at national level**
- **Participants: 18 Euro-Asian countries (AF, BG, CIS, CN, IR, RO, TR)**

EATL project 2003-2007

To address inadequate infrastructure, internationally un-harmonized transport rules and costly, time-consuming border crossing procedures



EATL Ministerial Meeting

70th session of the Inland Transport Committee, February 2008



- **Joint Statement on Future Development of EATL**
- **Endorsement, support, continuation, follow-up**

EATL Phase II

- **Group of Experts to monitor and co-ordinate EATL developments**
 - established in 2008 at the UNECE
- **Funding obtained (2008-2010)**
 - contribution by the Russian government
- **Solid interest**
 - 26 European and Asian governments participating

EATL Phase II – summary of results

- **EATL Group of Experts**
 - three EG sessions since September 2008
 - two sessions planned in Central Asia in 2010
- **Capacity building (share experience, exchange good practices)**
 - with ECO, Tehran, April 2009
 - with the Government of Turkey and BSEC, Istanbul, Nov. 2009
- **Challenging work plan**
 - co-ordinated transport infrastructure planning (collect, evaluate and prioritize national data)
 - assess the economic viability of inland transport (relative to sea shipping)
 - identify non-physical obstacles to transport, recommend ways to remove them

North-South demonstration block train run

- **A 4,500 km land bridge from the Baltic states/St. Petersburg to the port of Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf**
 - a project proposal requested by the EATL EG in November 2009
 - to be discussed and approved by the EG in April 2010
 - potential participants: Baltic States, Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran
 - beneficiaries: Turkey, Central Asian countries
 - funding of \$75-100K currently being sought