

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS**

PAKISTAN'S STANCE

Consultations on the next steps in the operationalization of Euro-Asian
Transport Corridors

26-11-2020

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, I would like to appreciate the support provided by UNECE for development and operationalization of inland transport connections between Europe and Asia through the implementation of its transport infrastructure flagship initiative, the Euro-Asian transport Links (EATL) project and its Phase-III.

Pakistan remains committed to operationalization of Euro - Asian transport corridors as it plays significant role in the economic growth by enhancing connectivity and sustainability.

Being signatory to UN Asian Highway Network (AHN) and Trans Asian Railway Network, Pakistan's Road and Railway Corridors are already integrated to regional countries.

Under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and CAREC Transport sector initiatives Pakistan has completed many mega road infrastructures projects in last five years.

CPEC is an important segment of Belt & Road (B&R) initiatives of regional significance linking different regions particularly connectivity between Asia and Europe. The Eastern alignment of CPEC of 2686 Km length has been completed which is providing inland linkage between Western region of China (Xingjiang) and Pakistani seaport at Gwadar.

Islamabad - Tehran - Istanbul (ITI) transport corridor is already operational for connectivity between Europe and Asia.

Removing the bottlenecks in railways is the priority of the present Government, which has taken a number of steps to overcome the deficiencies in rail transportation. The missing railway links such as Khunjrab - Havelian (of 682 KM) between China and Pakistan and Jalalabad - Peshawar of 145 KM and Kandahar - Chaman of 106 KM

between Afghanistan - Pakistan have been submitted **for** consideration in new CAREC Transport Strategy-2030.

Showing our commitment to regional connectivity Pakistan is improving three Border Crossing Points (Torkham & Chaman and Wagah) with the funding support of ADB.

Pakistan is also signatory to UN Conventions on Road Signs and Signals as well as Road Traffic Rights. For international inland transport facilitation, Pakistan is also party to different Bilateral and Multilateral Transport Agreements.

Recognizing the importance of legal instruments in smooth flow of international transport, Pakistan after completing all post accession formalities has operationalized TIR Transit System under TIR Convention in Pakistan. I am also pleased to report this august forum that Pakistan has also acceded to International CMR Convention to facilitate international transportation of goods.

Again, we assure our commitment to enhance regional connectivity through inland transport linkages.

With these words I would like to thank to the organizers for providing this opportunity to address this august forum. Thank you very much for listening.
