

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının
Cenevrədəki BMT Bölməsi
və digər beynəlxalq təşkilatlar yanında
Daimi Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva**

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Consultations on the next steps in the operationalization of Euro-Asian transport corridors

ZOOM Platform

26 November 2020

Closing remarks

**Delivered by Ms. Kamala Huseynli,
Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the
UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank UNECE Secretariat for excellent organization and coordination as well as participants and presenters for insightful exchange.

This year we continue to face a number of challenges related to the ongoing global pandemic and during this difficult time the movement of goods have been detrimental in many ways.

As we may see from all that has been said today, transport and transit connectivity is important for our partner countries in the region and beyond and the multibillion investments made by our Governments in this area testify to this argument.

Azerbaijan has historically been an important part of the Great Silk Road and is located at the crossroads of strategic international transport corridors across Eurasia. The Government has made enormous investments in the development of transport and transit

infrastructure and launched a number of strategic infrastructure projects to enable better connectivity in the region. A number of projects have been jointly launched with our partner countries.

Today we have mainly presented the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway project as one of the many existing transport-transit infrastructures in our region. However, there are a number of other regional transport projects that my Government has either initiated and/or is actively supporting and participating in, including in particular the New Baku International Sea Trade Port that has already started to handle international container traffic from China and Asia to Europe via the Caspian Sea. The Port will play a key role in the operationalization of Euro-Asian transport corridors along the way. The development of intermodal technologies and services, including ferry and Ro-Ro lines from the Port will significantly enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of rail and road routes connecting Europe and Asia. Thus, proving the efficiency and raising the importance of the Caspian Ports.

We underline the importance of transport connectivity for our country and believe that the participating Governments can benefit from the project. We would therefore, like to express our interest in joining in the development and implementation of a pilot corridor management mechanism in the Caspian Region. Our initial non-exhaustive list of priorities under this project are safety and security, sustainability, efficiency, market orientation, innovation, digitalization, in advance submission of information on goods and transport. We remain ready to work with UNECE and our colleagues from pilot project partner countries.

We believe that the modalities of the draft outcome document can be discussed among interested parties at the later stage and based on the further developments we reserve our right to engage additional government agencies and relevant structures in the development of the project.

Thank you.