Transport cooperation on the move

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On track towards a common transport network

Transport cooperation between the EU and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) is vital for bringing the eastern and western halves of the European continent closer together, since smoother transport connections help foster trade links across borders and boost the mobility of citizens.

The EU’s focus is on helping partner countries to converge with EU rules in all transport modes, as well as on improving transport infrastructure and connections with its closest neighbours.

“Transport does not stop at borders. It brings the people and economies of Europe closer together. The Eastern Partnership is about extending the EU’s success stories to our closest neighbours so that they can also benefit from faster, cheaper and safer transport connections” said Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission in October 2013.

Transport cooperation with the Eastern partners is a key priority of the Neighbourhood Transport Action Plan, which was launched by the European Commission on 7 July 2011. The plan for both neighbouring regions, East and South, proposes a range of measures to make transport connections smoother, safer and more reliable.

These measures were taken forward by the Eastern Partnership Transport Panel, established in the framework of the EaP Multilateral platform on Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies.

The Transport Panel serves as a platform for:

- identifying regional actions;
- discussing regional transport networks;
- preparing priority projects that could be co-financed by the EU and International Financial Institutions (IFIs);
- sharing information and best practices between the EU and partner countries.

“Transport does not stop at borders. It brings the people and economies of Europe closer together”

Siim Kallas
Vice-President of the European Commission

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Safer ports in cleaner waters: towards international standards of maritime safety
First TRACECA Investment Forum may help propel Moldovan apples to European supermarkets
A faster and safer railway for Armenia
At the cross-roads of development
Transport Action Plan yields first outcomes

The progress and next steps towards closer transport cooperation between the EU and its Eastern partners were highlighted in a Declaration adopted by EU and EaP transport ministers meeting in Luxembourg on 9 October 2013.

They are:

**Harmonization with EU legislation and gradual market integration** partner countries have started reforms to align their transport systems with EU standards. The Association Agreements that the EU has negotiated with several partner countries envisage more regulatory convergence in transport. The most significant achievements of market integration are the signature and implementation of comprehensive aviation agreements that the EU has negotiated with Georgia and Moldova.

**Regional Eastern Partnership Transport Network** Partner countries have agreed on priority connections in road, railway, air and sea transport in the Eastern Partnership region. Most importantly, this network connects with the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) and will serve as guidance for future investments.

**Priority infrastructure projects on the regional transport network** projects such as the reconstruction of the Krakovits-Lviv-Brody-Rivne road in Ukraine and the upgrade of the railway line between Georgia and Azerbaijan are among those which partner countries have identified as priorities for improving connections with the EU and within the region. These projects could benefit from financing under existing EU funds and loans from international financial institutions.

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**2013 Key dates**

- **January** negotiations with Azerbaijan on Common Aviation Area Agreement launched
- **February** Informal Eastern Partnership transport dialogue meeting
- **June** Common Aviation Area Agreement signed with Moldova
- **September** negotiations on an aviation agreement resumed with Ukraine with a view to be concluded before the end of the year
- **October** Eastern Partnership transport ministerial meeting in Luxembourg


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**PHOTO GALLERIES**

Spotlight: TRACECA the Transport Corridor

The EU has a long-standing commitment to addressing transport issues that affect the Neighbourhood countries. This is evident from the number of projects established with the countries participating in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and benefiting from its financial instrument managed by EuropeAid, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). Enhanced transport co-operation across the region is of paramount importance for achieving sustainable and economic and social development, as well as contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In the Eastern Partner countries, one major regional programme deals with transport issues: TRACECA.

TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) is an international transport cooperation programme between the EU and its partner countries in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Launched in 1993, the programme aims to strengthen the progressive integration of transport networks and markets, in accordance with EU and international legal and regulatory frameworks. With a permanent secretariat in Azerbaijan, it covers maritime transport, aviation, road and rail, transport security, and transport infrastructure.

TRACECA seeks to achieve the following objectives:
- **Support** the political and economic independence of partner countries by enhancing their capacity to access European and world markets through alternative transport routes.
- **Encourage** further regional co-operation among them.
- **Attract** the support of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and private investors.
- **Link** the TRACECA route with the Trans-European Networks (TENs).

TRACECA also promotes the participation of the private sector in the financing and management of transport projects, though the TRACECA Investment Forum, held in Brussels in October 2010 and again in February 2012 and gathering representatives of the international donor community and transport ministers of TRACECA partner countries. The Forum has helped secure funding for nearly two dozen transport projects of regional significance, ranging from road rehabilitations and railway constructions to developing logistics centres and improving road, rail, maritime and aviation transport. Find out more – Interview with Philip Mikos - TRACECA Investment Forum seeks to turn transport blueprints into real transport links.

Five projects are currently funded under the TRACECA programme:

**Logistics Processes and Motorways of the Sea (LOGMOS)** Contributes to the long-term sustainable development of the logistics infrastructure and multimodal transport along the TRACECA corridor. It fosters the development and implementation of coherent strategies for the establishment of intermodal integrated transport and logistics chains underpinned by Motorways of the Sea, with a view to facilitate the flow of goods, enhance trade and promote better maritime services.

**SASEPOL - Maritime Safety and Security II** Aims to make shipping in the region safer, more secure and environmentally friendly by advancing the ratification and implementation of international maritime safety and security conventions and improving the quality of maritime administrations.

It seeks to help partner countries to converge with EU norms and standards in the field, especially with the EU’s Third Maritime Safety Package. Fiche: www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=582&id_type=10

**Transport dialogue and networks interoperability II** Aims at facilitating the connection between the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and partner countries. Emphasis is placed on improving coordination with international financial institutions and private sector participation in transport projects. The project envisages capacity building and training measures, the development of transport forecasts and investment appraisals in the TRACECA region. It also seeks to support the sustainable development of civil aviation in the beneficiary countries, harmonise regulations and working practices to comply with international standards (ICAO), international best practices and prepare for the implementation of international standards and EU regulations concerning market access, social & consumer protection, security, ATM and the environment.

**TRACECA Civil Aviation Safety/EASA** Implemented by the European Air Safety Agency (EASA), the project aims to ensure that beneficiaries have signed a comprehensive civil aviation agreement with the EU or for which such negotiations are planned or in progress can participate effectively in the pan-European civil aviation system.

Fiche: www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=570&id_type=10

**TRACECA Civil Aviation II** The project aims to support the sustainable development of civil aviation in the beneficiary countries, harmonise regulations and working practices to comply with international standards, harmonise regulations and working practices to comply with international standards, and converge with EU norms and standards in the field, especially with the EU’s Third Maritime Safety Package. Fiche: www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=582&id_type=10

Fiche: www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=570&id_type=10
The Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF): facilitating key transport projects

Acting as an innovative financial instrument of the ENP since 2008, the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) works to finance key infrastructure projects in the transport, energy, social and environment sectors with a mixture of grants and loans as well as to support private sector development (in particular SMEs). Given the considerable resources required to finance and implement large infrastructure projects, the NIF aims to create a partnership, pooling together grant resources from the EU Budget and the EU Member States and using them to leverage loans from European Finance Institutions such as the European Investment Bank or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, as well as contributions from the ENP partner countries.

“An efficient transport system is the backbone of effective regional integration. Our Eastern neighbours, who link the Black and the Caspian Seas to China and beyond, could benefit from stronger transport infrastructure and services, in order to help them reach their full potential in their economic and trade relations with the EU.”

Štefan Füle
European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy

Examples of actions in the field

Armenia
Thanks to the Yerevan Metro Rehabilitation Project co-financed by the NIF (€5 million grant), the EBRD (€5 million loan), and the EIB (€5 million loan), new equipment was purchased. The project helped upgrade the metro system and improve the quality of life for Yerevan city residents by encouraging greater use of public transport and reducing vehicle emissions.

Find out more: www.enpi-info.eu/files/features/FT47%20east%20Metro%20EN.pdf

Azerbaijan
With an EBRD loan of €570 million and a NIF grant of €3.4 million, the Regional Roads Reconstruction Project focuses on developing the regional road network in order to help with the diversification of the Azeri economy by stimulating non-oil sectors (in particular agriculture) and supporting economic development across the country.

Moldova
A €150 million loan contract with the EIB, signed in June 2013, will help Moldova to finance the rehabilitation and upgrading of key national road sections, contributing to an increase of transport safety on the country’s main road corridors.

Useful links

**Useful links**

EuropeAid Infrastructure & Transport

EC Vice President and Commissioner responsible for Transport

DG Transport International relations Regional Cooperation - European Neighbourhood
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/international/regional_cooperation/european-neighbourhood_en.htm

TRACECA homepage
www.traceca-org.org/en/home/EuropeAid webpage Transport

EuropeAid webpage TRACECA

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre – Transport thematic portal
www.enpi-info.eu/themeeast.php?subject=8

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre - List of Regional Projects funded
www.enpi-info.eu/list_projects_east.php?subject=8

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre – Photos on transport
www.enpi-info.eu/list_galleries_main.php?gallerytitle=&subject=8&country=0&caption=&Submit=Submit&search=1

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre – publications on transport
www.enpi-info.eu/list_type_east.php?id_type=9&newstype=0&subject=8&eupolicy=0&Submit=Submit

EU Neighbourhood Library - transport
www.enpi-info.eu/library/simple_search?field_all_titles_value=transport

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**EU Neighbourhood Handbooks**

From the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre website, a number of different handbooks can be downloaded, offering tips to media professionals for improved coverage of EU cooperation activities, but also providing information on how to access EU funding or to navigate through EU jargon. A wealth of knowledge at your disposal, just a click away on www.enpi-info.eu.
Documents

Joint Declaration "Future of Eastern Partnership transport cooperation" adopted at the ministerial meeting in Luxembourg (09.10.2013)

Joint Declaration on transport cooperation between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries (25 Oct. 2011)

EU Neighbourhood Transport Action Plan

TRACECA Regional Action Strategy on Maritime Safety ad Security and Environmental Protection for the period up to 20121

EIB Factsheet – Eastern Neighbours

Council conclusions on transport cooperation with the EU's neighbouring region:

Eastern Partnership Transport Panel

Maps of the Eastern Partnership Transport Infrastructure network

Strengthening the Eastern Partnership through transport: key results and next steps

www.enpi-info.eu/library/
The EU is a major donor for the Neighbourhood. The lion’s share of its regional support is channelled through the EuropeAid Co-operation Office and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). Approximately 10 percent of the ENPI funds are allocated to regional programmes and projects. ENPI funding approved for the period 2007-2013 was €11.2 billion. The proposed amount for the ENPI – to be renamed European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) – in 2014-2020 is €18.2 billion.

East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia.
South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia.

European Commission [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid)
Directorate General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid