

EAST WEST TRANSPORT CORRIDOR - EWTC

Land-bridge Connection between Asia and Europe via Southern Baltic Region

Association for Trade, Transport and Logistics stakeholders

Tool for Growth and **Competitiveness**

Meeting challenges for future.

It is clearly evident that East – West (Asia – Europe) transport flows will increase dramatically, despite the temporary effect of the current global economic crisis. Transport systems should be prepared to accommodate the growing demand for transport and logistics.

At the moment special focus is emerging towards the development of land transportation from China and other Far East and Central Asian countries to CIS and European countries.

The growing demand for transport along East – West axis is a clear signal for governments to address the following issues: a need for better interoperability between different infrastructures, standards and systems, as well as removal of physical and operational bottlenecks, especially on the borders.

The key concern for businesses and governments –how to decrease the costs of transportation and better use of infrastructure? The new business models and innovative solutions should lead to effectively operational logistics supply chain.

What is the EWTC?

EWTC is geographically defined infrastructure linkages and intermodal transportation route between Asian countries (China, Kazakhstan et al.), Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, countries of Black Sea Region, Southern Baltic Sea Region countries (Lithuania, Kaliningrad district, Northern Germany, Denmark, Southern Sweden) and the markets of Central, Western and Northern Europe.



East-West transport corridor from the global perspective

Also EWTC is an attempt to form the effective transnational supply chain, providing a variety of transportation and logistics services. To achieve the synergy effect and enjoy the benefits, cooperation between different stakeholders within the global supply chain is needed.

Lastly, EWTC is a useful tool for *governments* to combine the efforts to facilitate needed improvements, for transport and logistics *business* community to speak with governments and cooperate for gaining competitive advantage. Agenda for developing skills and qualification of logistics specialists in the context of Asia-Europe connections would be a task for EWTC platform of *researchers*.



East-West transport corridor in the Southern Baltics area

A tool to use.

Based on previous extensive research (2007) on the perspectives of EWTC, Strategy and Action plan of EWTC development were prepared. Today, within a second phase of the project, the aim is to implement the Action Plan and to develop a Green Corridor Concept as a best practice case in Pan-European perspective in order to match market demands for growing freight transport in the corridor as well as to and from the trading areas of EU, Russia and Far East (including China) with more efficient and environmentally-friendly transport solutions.

EWTC also implements the connection of the EU transport network (TEN-T) with the networks of neighboring countries (Belarus, Russia, Ukraine). That implies the multitasked agenda to improve transnational connections and conditions for businesses to operate along EWTC.

Within the EWTC a pilot scheme for crossing the EU-CIS border is used, drawing on the experience of intermodal shuttle train “Viking”, operating from 2003. Agreement between Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine allow the train to cross the border in 30 min. To apply the same principle and reach the same benefit for other border crossings along EWTC route is required.

Finally EWTC and its structures offer a framework for better linkages between the transport hubs and terminals as well as framework for improving the efficiency of the transport solutions in the EWTC to meet market demands.

Cooperation in EWTC Association .

It is proved that challenges of today and tomorrow can not be met by separate and individual effort. Cooperation along the chain is crucial. This assumption is reflected in the emerging interest of various business and research stakeholders from China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and others.

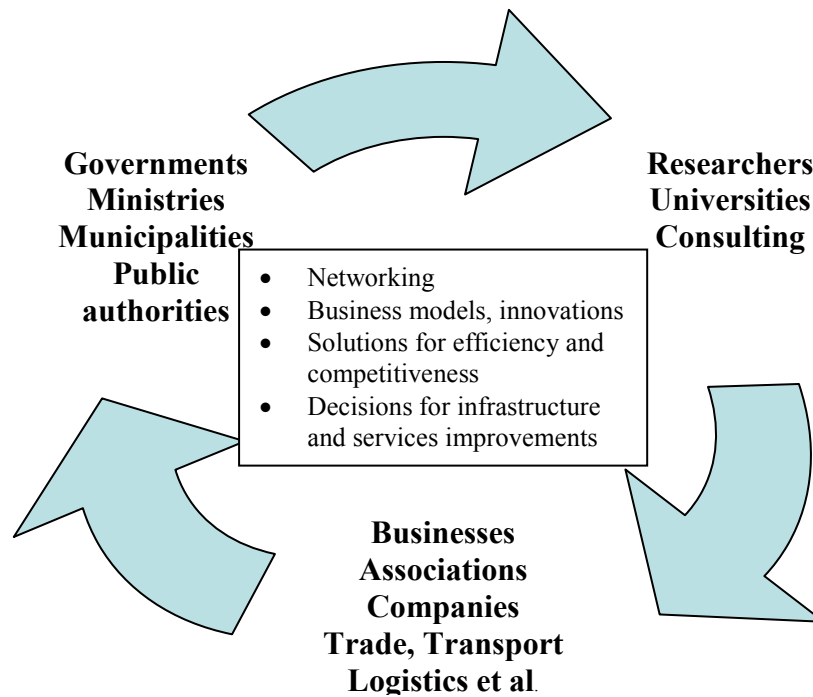
Attention of Governments of Asian and European countries towards the development of Asia-European transport network is also evident. The first Asia-Europe (ASEM) Transport Ministers Meeting was launched in Lithuania on 19 October 2009, with the ambition to create an Action plan and agenda for future work of ASEM Transport Ministers. Second meeting will take place in China in 2011.

Within a context of the multifold developments, a tool or a structure is needed to combine the efforts of businesses governments and researchers along the EWTC.

EWTC Association provides the Platform for cooperation and action. It is of special relevance at the moment when historical opportunity for land bridge between Asia and Europe to be break through is viable from market driven perspective.

EWTC Association will be the flagman for promotion of vitality and effectiveness of the EWTC. And partners of Association should enjoy the future benefits, which will be created jointly.

Aims and Framework of the EWTC Association.



EWTC Association: stakeholders and aims

First of all, EWTC Association provides a platform for networking between the business companies. Among the main tasks of EWTC Association are: to strengthen the cooperation between transportation, logistics companies, intermodal terminal operators, shippers and consignees; to pursue simplification of procedures and documentations; to promote the development of infrastructure and to develop interactions among different transport modes along EWTC. Also it provides the forum for researchers to launch the research and qualification improvement agenda for Asia-Europe land-bridge logistics specialists. The demand part of this agenda should be influenced heavily by companies. Lastly, EWTC Association will ensure that voice of business communities along EWTC will be heard in the governments of EWTC countries.

Preparation Committee of the Constitutional conference of the EWTC Association