



Concept of Multimodal Transport and Logistics Forum

(13-14 September 2023, İstanbul, Türkiye)

Venue: Address Istanbul Hotel (Ünalan Mah. Libadiye Cad. No:82F, G Blok, Üsküdar, İstanbul, 34700)

Objective:

The Multimodal Transport and Logistics Forum will be held in Istanbul on 13-14 September 2023 under the auspices of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), in collaboration with the Railway Administrations of the Member States and in cooperation with TRACECA, as well as in partnership with MFA Logistics (Premier Partner), ALLIANCE LOGISTICS LLC (Gold Partner), Mediterra Pacific Co., ErkPort (Silver Partners) and Vagsan Vagon Sanayi, Logitrans (Bronze Partners).

The forum will bring together leading transport and logistics companies, business associations, and relevant stakeholders from the region, creating a platform for constructive discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaborative initiatives to drive the development of multimodal transport routes.

The forum seeks to promote collaboration, foster partnerships, and enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of global supply chains, with a specific focus on the development of multimodal transport routes through the Middle Corridor and Southern Corridor.

Day 1:

Opening Session:

The session will feature welcoming speeches by official authorities.

Session 1: Potential and Perspectives of Railway Connectivity

The session will examine the potential and perspectives of railway connectivity, infrastructure challenges and capacity constraints in multimodal transport. Participants will discuss strategies for infrastructure development, modernization, and capacity enhancement, including investment opportunities, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing models.

Session 2: Development of Multimodal Transport Corridors

The session will focus on the development and optimization of multimodal transport routes, with a particular emphasis on the Middle Corridor and Southern Corridor.

Session 3: Business Sector Engagement in Multimodal Transport

The session will explore the role of the business sector in driving the development of multimodal transport and logistics. Participants will discuss the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by businesses in utilizing multimodal transport solutions, as well as strategies for fostering public-private partnerships and promoting investment in the sector. The session will also address the need of business in new regular services, particularly in the scheduled train block, along the routes of the Southern and Middle Corridors, as well as on the North-South routes.

Day 2:

Session 4: Legal Aspects of International Multimodal Transport

The session will address the legal framework governing multimodal transport operations, including international conventions, regulations, and contractual arrangements. Discussions will cover topics such as liability and insurance, contract terms and conditions, dispute resolution mechanisms, and harmonization of legal frameworks across different jurisdictions. Special attention will be paid to the issues of cargo insurance during transportation along the routes of the Southern Corridor.

Session 5: TRACECA-OTS: New opportunities for ensuring regional connectivity

The panel session will explore an overall understanding of the transport opportunities for expansion and strengthening of regional connectivity as well as improving the essential transport policy. The session will delve into various aspects of the international carriage of goods by road and rail transport. In addition to representatives of the OTS Member and Observer States, representatives of two TRACECA Member States – (Georgia and Iran) will be invited as panelists for this session due to their role in ensuring transport connectivity in the region. Routes through Iran will be focused on road and rail transport modes, while routes through Georgia will be considered multimodal transport.

Moreover, this Session will focus on best practices for conducting the carriage of goods and the legal aspects of this process.

Session 6: Green Technologies and Railway Transport: Paving the Way to Sustainable Connectivity

Railway transport stands out as the most environmentally friendly mode of transportation. With a significantly lower carbon footprint compared to other modes of transport, such as road or air, railways offer a sustainable solution to facilitate connectivity and economic growth while preserving the environment.

The session will emphasize the pivotal role of railways in promoting eco-conscious mobility. By utilizing electric and hybrid locomotives, adopting energy-efficient systems, and exploring renewable energy sources, railways can substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to combating climate change.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore how railways are leading the way towards a greener future, enabling the efficient and reliable movement of goods and passengers while minimizing environmental impact.

Events:

- The Second Meeting of Heads of Railway Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.
- The Signing Ceremony of agreements and MoUs between Businesses.

Format:

The Multimodal Transport and Logistics Forum will feature a combination of keynote speeches, and panel discussions. It will provide a platform for industry experts, policymakers, researchers, and technology providers to share insights and best practices related to the development of multimodal transport routes. Participants will also have the opportunity to enjoy B2B meetings to enhance their networks and take collaborative initiatives to drive the development of multimodal transport routes.

The English/Turkish/Russian simultaneous interpretation will be provided during the Forum.

Accommodation: Forum participants wishing to stay at Address Istanbul Hotel can benefit from discounted rates by using the corporate code (GRPMFA) when booking through <https://www.addresshotels.com/tr/hotels/address-istanbul/>.

Participants:

The forum is open to professionals and representatives from the transport and logistics industry, including transport ministries, railway administrations, leading transport and logistics companies, business associations, legal experts, infrastructure developers, technology providers, and international organizations. The participation of government officials, industry associations, and regional stakeholders from the Member and Observer States involved in the development of multimodal transport routes through the Middle Corridor and Southern Corridor is encouraged.

Expected Outcomes:

1. **Knowledge Exchange:** The forum will facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among participants, promoting collaboration and learning in the field of multimodal transport and logistics.

2. **Networking and Partnerships:** Participants will have the opportunity to establish valuable connections, explore potential partnerships, and forge collaborations to enhance the development of multimodal transport routes and address the associated challenges.
3. **Policy Recommendations:** Through discussions and dialogue, the forum will generate policy recommendations and actionable strategies for governments, international organizations, and stakeholders involved in the development of multimodal transport routes.
4. **Infrastructure Development and Capacity Enhancement:** The forum will highlight the importance of infrastructure development and capacity enhancement in supporting the growth of multimodal transport. It will identify investment opportunities, innovative financing models, and strategies for infrastructure modernization and capacity building.
5. **Promotion of the existing corridors:** The forum will raise awareness about the potential of the key multimodal transport routes, promoting their benefits and encouraging stakeholders to explore opportunities for collaboration and investment.