REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISM ON LOW CARBON TRANSPORT: CREATION OF GREEN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Challenges in the transport sector of Georgia

Hanoi, Vietnam

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In terms of the digitalization of the transport corridor, Georgia continues its involvement in regional initiatives, including within the frameworks of TRACECA and TITR.

A major milestone in railway transport modernization was achieved with the successful testing of the electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note (eCIM/SMGS CN) prototype. The project involved railway operators from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, and Ukraine. In June 2024, 20 eCIM/SMGS CN messages were exchanged, improving automation and accuracy in freight documentation.

Building on a Memorandum of Understanding from May 2023, the project aligns with global standards like UN/CEFACT and MMT RDM. Further refinements are planned, with full implementation expected in 2024 to enhance international trade and logistics.

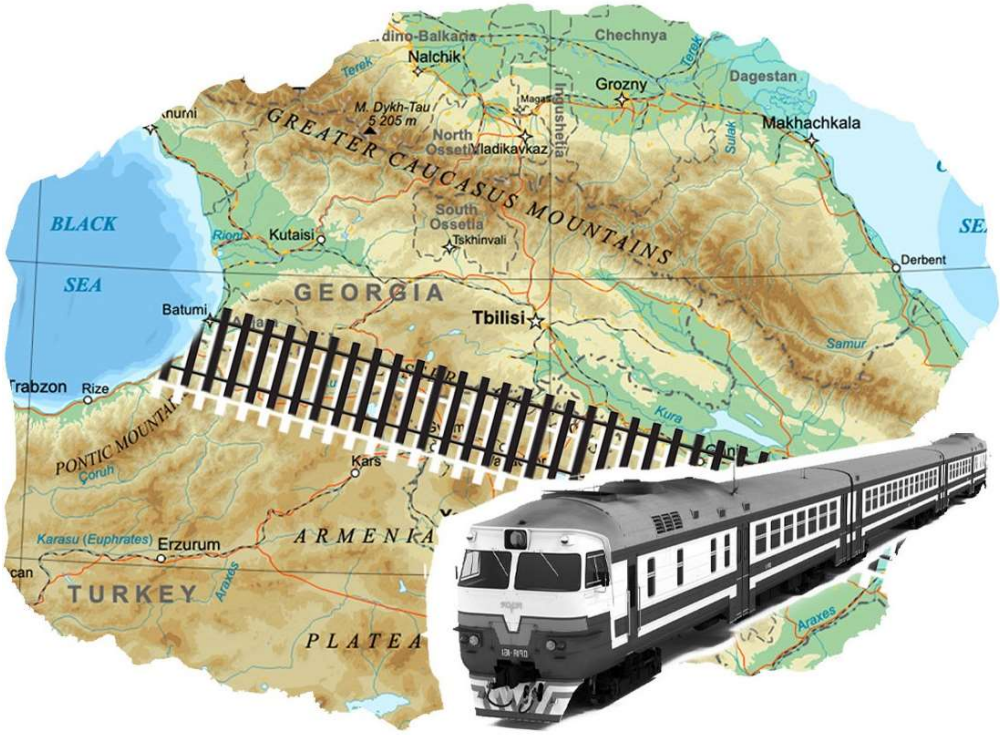
During technical consultations for the eCIM/SMGS consignment note pilot project on September 9, 2024, key suggestions focused on simplifying electronic information exchange based on the eCIM/SMGS CN prototype. It was agreed to allow flexibility in using JSON or XML formats for upcoming API testing. The PS IGC TRACECA will explore developing a converter between UN/EDIFACT and XML/JSON structures, and API-based integration of railway information systems will continue.

Virtual testing is scheduled for September 23-27, 2024, with results to be analyzed at the UNECE Regional Seminar on October 7-8, 2024, in Tbilisi, with potential expansion to other transport modes.

Development of Georgia as a Digital and Energy Transit Hub

To maximize Georgia's transit potential, work is ongoing to develop a digital corridor, involving an optical fiber connection through the Black Sea and the creation of regional data centers meeting international standards. In collaboration with an international consulting company, research will be conducted in 2024 on fiber connectivity and data center formation, with recommendations for developing Georgia as a digital corridor.

Additionally, progress continues on the "Black Sea Undersea Power Transmission Cable" project, with a technical and economic study. The World Bank has allocated $35 million for further research. The 7th ministerial meeting on "Green Strategic Partnership in Energy Development and Transmission" was also held in Tbilisi, discussing key issues.



AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA: FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF CONTRAILER (RO-LA) SERVICES

Azerbaijan and Georgia, key transit hubs between East and West, are exploring Contrailer (Ro-La) services to enhance logistics by shifting more cargo to rail. This would reduce road congestion, fuel consumption, and emissions. To assess the feasibility, both countries, with support from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), are conducting a 12-month study to evaluate market demand, infrastructure needs, and potential investment.



For Azerbaijan, the project aligns with its national strategy to develop "green" transport solutions, while Georgia sees it as part of its broader goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2030. The study will propose locations for contrailer terminals, analyze costs, and suggest regulatory changes to ensure successful implementation.

By the end of the study, both nations aim to strengthen their roles as key global trade routes, while contributing to sustainability goals and economic development.

Vehicle technical inspection

Since January 2019, Georgia has mandated technical inspections for all registered vehicles, with increasingly strict regulations, particularly around emissions standards. Vehicles first registered after April 1, 2020, must meet European standards for carbon monoxide (CO) content and have catalytic converters, with stricter limits for older vehicles phased in through 2025. For instance, by January 1, 2025, the allowable CO content will be capped at 0.5% for idle speed and 0.3% at high speed.

Additionally, since February 2023, fees have been introduced for repeat inspections. In a move to improve inspection quality, the Georgian Parliament passed amendments in June 2024, giving the Land Transport Agency authority to monitor technical inspection centers through video surveillance and on-site visits. This system will begin in January 2025, ensuring that private inspection centers comply with stricter regulations.





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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

THANK YOU!

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