



EU Connectivity Strategy with Asia - Ongoing activities under the EU-China Connectivity Platform

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EU Strategy on connectivity with Asia (I)

- EU Global Strategy 2014: need to connect with Asia – **EU Strategy for Connecting Europe and Asia** adopted 19 September 2018
- **Objective:** better connect Europe and Asia in terms of
 - transport links
 - energy networks
 - digital networks
 - people-to-people connections
 - comprehensive sustainable financial framework

EU Strategy on connectivity with Asia (II)

- **European approach to connectivity: sustainable, comprehensive, rules-based** – environmentally, economically, socially and fiscally sustainable, enable a level playing field for businesses, equal treatment in terms of market access and transparency in public procurement, including for WTO rules.
- **Avenues for engagement:**
 - better networks (sharing TEN-T experience)
 - stronger partnerships (transport dialogues, agreements)
 - comprehensive sustainable financial framework



EU-China Connectivity Platform (I)

Since 2016 = a unique framework to promote

- Policy exchanges infrastructure connectivity
- Enhancing EU–China experience exchanges and cooperation
- Focus on investment and financing (EG "pilot projects")

2018 = stepped-up cooperation

- 3rd Chairs' meeting and a Short-Term Action Plan
- Agreement to conduct a "Joint railway Corridors Study"
- Relevant information/documents on pilot projects



EU-China Connectivity Platform (II)

Key objectives stressed by the Chairs:

- Most sustainable transport connections between the EU and China
- Synergies between China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and EU's TEN-T (Trans-European Transport Network policy)
- Openness, transparency and a level playing field in accordance to market-based principles & international standards
- From these principles to cooperation on infrastructure connectivity projects based on reciprocity



Joint Railway Corridors Study (I)

EU China Connectivity Platform – 3rd Chairs Meeting (July 2018)

Short-Term Action Plan annexed to the Chairs' Meeting
Para. 4

- Cooperation in corridor infrastructure development
- “Jointly conduct an « EU-China Corridor Study » to define the most appropriate railway corridors, identify bottlenecks, identify and prioritize the missing links to improve the capacity and efficiency of rail corridors.*



Joint Railway Corridors Study (II)

EU-China Connectivity Platform –4th Chairs Meeting (April 2019)

Both sides agreed on the Terms of Reference of the Joint Study on Sustainable Railway-based Comprehensive Transport Corridors between Europe and China.



Joint Railway Corridors Study (III)

➤ Objectives and structure

- Identifying the most feasible and sustainable rail corridors between the EU and its neighbouring countries on the one hand, and China on the other.
- Assessing existing and potential corridors on the basis of bi-directional transport demand, economic, political, social and environmental criteria.
- Consulting all relevant stakeholders.
- Establishing a method to identify bottlenecks/areas for required interventions along corridors.





Joint Railway Corridors Study (IV)

➤ Geographical scope:

Existing and potential new corridors **in the areas between the TEN-T policy coverage** (EU and its neighbourhood) **and China**

➤ Modal scope:

Railway corridors, including multi-modal connecting points, transshipment facilities and other requirements to enhance rail freight services (customs facilities, etc.)

Strong emphasis to be placed on interoperability



Joint Railway Corridors Study (V)

Road map / implementation:

- The Study will be assigned to a mutually agreed, independent institution, experienced in transport infrastructure/economic analysis in relevant areas
- Joint steering between EU Commission and China (NDRC)
- Timeline: approx. 1-year after launching
- Exchange of views with specific stakeholders* foreseen at meetings of the EU-China Connectivity Platform Expert Group

**This includes EU MS, EU Neighbouring Countries, third countries concerned, European industry associations and Chinese industry representatives as well as European and International financial institutions*



For more information:

- *Minutes of the 4th Chairs' Meeting (8 April 2019)*
- *EU-China Connectivity Platform 2019 Action Plan*
- *Terms of Reference of the Joint Study*

https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/4th_chairs_meeting_minutes_en.pdf



Thank you!



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