



**Islamic Republic of Iran  
Ministry of Road & Urban Development**



**Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization**



**First informal preparatory meeting  
for the 14th session of the Group of Experts on the Euro - Asian Transport Links  
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Istanbul**



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*In the Name of GOD, The Compassionate, The Merciful*

*The speech Text of*

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*Road Maintenance and Transport Organization*

*Ministry of Roads and Urban Development*

*The Government of Islamic Republic of Iran*

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Honorable Audience, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all let me convey my deep apology for losing opportunity of attending Islamic Republic of Iran relevant representative in this very important EATL Project Meeting due to some unexpected event. On behalf of Iran ministry of roads and urban development, I have the pleasure to express my immense acknowledgement to the Government of Republic of Turkey as well as the Turkic Council for hosting the second preparatory meeting for the 14th EATL session. I would also appreciate the UNECE secretariat for their strong international support to the EATL activities and useful involvement of OSCE in the EATL project, as well.

In my country, Iran, I have the pleasure to represent, over 8% of Iran GDP is due to road transport sector, over 800,000 drivers together with over 1.4 million jobs created in transport industry,

over 6000 domestic and 900 international transport companies, carry over 90% Freight and Passengers nationwide, which figures over 620 MT of goods and over 800 million passengers transported annually, over 12.5 million MT of goods are transited. Also, Iran, currently includes 214,000 km roads, of which, 2,200 km are freeways, 15,000 km are highways, 22,000 km are major roads, 46,000 km are local roads, 105,000 km are paved village roads besides 355,000 bridges and 142 km tunnels.

Hence, from the very beginning, the EATL project was meant by Iran authorities to provide the basis of economic growth, easing logistics and customs procedures and opening up trade and transport possibilities on EATL rail routes number 4 and 5 and road routes number 5 and 6. Some could be reviewed as follows:

- The railroad of Mashhad – Sarakhs – Tejen in Turkmenistan
- The railroad to the northwest from Tabriz to Van in Turkey
- The Mashhad – Bafq – Bandar Abbas route to connect CIS states to the Persian Gulf.
- The INSTC (International North South Transport Corridor) Iran as a founding member, and TRACECA, partially covers the EATL rail and road routes number 4, 5 and 6.

Major under construction projects of RAI in TAR route:

1. Afghanistan Border: Sangan \_ Herat Railway; 191 km
2. Azerbaijan Border: Qazvin \_ Rasht \_ Astara Railway; 376 km
3. Iraq Border: Arak-Kermanshah-Khosravi; 611 km
4. Miyaneh \_ Bostanabad \_ Tabriz double track; 185 km

Islamic Republic of Iran, in favor of collaboration with the respective unions in the EATL project is planning closer economic

ties, deepen cooperation and expand development in the Euro - Asia region. With reference to 13<sup>th</sup> EATL session in Dushanbe and based on the EATL GIS system, our GIS experts have summarized required relevant fundamental information on transport network in GIS platform, categorized in the layers of state division, sea district, Asia – Europe rail and road network and so forth that will be available upon request.

At the end, we wish success for all participants of this extremely effective meeting and would like to express the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's full readiness to support all programs and initiatives developed by UNECE in the development of the international transport and linkage connectivity between Asia and Europe.

We eagerly hope that through great participation and collaboration between regional transportation authorities and other parties interested in doing business in the countries of the region, appropriate practical solutions to further strengthen transport in the region is achieved.

Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of Republic of Turkey for all their efforts to host this meeting.

Again, thanks for your attention.