

## Trends in the Development of International Transport Cooperation in Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** This article examines the creation and development of international transport cooperation, the need for a strategy for entering new markets, and the results of the transport forum of the SCO member states.

**Keywords:** transport, transport companies, transit corridors, infrastructure, transport corridor, international corridor, international economic relations, economic modernization, export potential.

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The Transport Infrastructure plays an important role in the economy of Uzbekistan. The introduction of the open economic policy requires entering new markets. Uzbekistan is seeking to diversify of its exports. In addition to traditional markets such as Central Asia and Russia, the country is increasing supplies to China, European countries and Turkey.

As a result of the measures implemented in the republic in recent years to stimulate exports, optimize imports and, in general, to ensure a balanced foreign trade, in January-July 2023 the foreign trade turnover in the country amounted to 35.0 billion US dollars and increased compared to with the same period last year, by 6.6 billion US dollars, or by 23.3%.

The development of international economic relations contributes to stable growth of exports, and this, in turn, creates the basis for achieving certain results. Based on the reforms carried out aimed at increasing the country's export potential, supporting exporters from the state and expanding the range of export products, the number of exporters reached 5,839, and the volume of exports of goods and services amounted to 9,316.9 million US dollars (in addition to non-monetary gold) and, compared to the same period in 2022, increased by 10.4%.

Based on the results of January-July 2023, goods and services were imported into Uzbekistan from 168 countries. More than 2/3 of imports come from such large partner countries as China, Russia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Germany and Brazil.

The volume of imports of services for January-July 2023 amounted to 1,255.6 million US dollars, or 6.3% of its total volume and decreased, compared to the same period in 2022, by 10.0%. As part of the import of services, the main share is occupied by travel (tourism - 51.9%), transport services (19.9%), telecommunications, computer and information services (9.6%), other business services (4.7%).

These trade flows require sustainable transport corridors. The country has developed a project "Strategy for the development of the transport system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2035," which provides for the creation of conditions for increasing the volume and quality of passenger and freight transportation. This strategy remains a key document defining important directions for the country's future transport and international policy. This shows that Uzbekistan intends to develop its transport infrastructure and participate in almost all regional initiatives put forward by individual countries and international financial institutions.

To improve its competitiveness, Uzbekistan should focus on the following transport-related

issues. The country must increase investment in rail and road infrastructure to reduce trade costs. These investments could bring significant benefits to the country's producers.

On November 1, the first transport forum of the SCO member states took place in Tashkent. It was attended by ministers of transport, deputy ministers, heads of railways, representatives of transport and logistics enterprises of the member states of the organization, current problems of the industry, issues of creating effective international transport routes were discussed.

Uzbekistan is one of the landlocked countries in the world. Our President's initiatives are primarily to collaborate with neighboring countries to act as a bridge connecting Europe and Asia by creating all the facilities and facilities for the delivery of our products. International transport corridors will be useful for Uzbekistan in using directions convenient for it. During the forum, an agreement was reached on the creation of an international transport corridor leading to Europe through neighboring countries, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. At the same time, it is expected that Uzbekistan will be given a 70% discount on transportation.

Reforms should also include supporting transport companies to address limited and aging fleets. Therefore, to increase competitiveness, it is important for Uzbekistan to complement the country's transport strategy with comprehensive economic reforms and international cooperation.

Modernization of the economy, the growing export potential of Uzbekistan and the need to expand markets for domestic products require the adoption of additional proactive measures to create favorable conditions for further diversification of foreign trade routes, the formation of alternative, most efficient transit corridors that ensure access of export products to promising international markets.

As a result of the implementation of the proposed measures, the transport sector of Uzbekistan by 2030 will become a systemically important and growing industry, the growth dynamics of which will be higher than the average annual growth rate of the national economy. The industry will reach a competitive position in terms of unit transport costs, safety, environmental friendliness and quality of transport services.

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