
MIDDLE CORRIDOR IN FOCUS AT OTS SUMMIT: TOKAYEV CALLS FOR MODERNIZATION AND DIGITALIZATION

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During the 12th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), held on October 7, 2025, in Gabala, Azerbaijan, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev once again highlighted the Middle Corridor as a strategic link in the Eurasian transport network. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, running through China, Kazakhstan, the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Türkiye, connecting East Asia with Europe, has already become a vital lifeline for cargo flows between East and West and is slowly but surely shaping up as a strong contender to traditional routes through Russia.

Acting Secretary General of the International TITR Association, Nurgul Zhakupova, told Kazakh media that in the first six months of 2025, cargo volume along the route reached 926,000 tons, a six percent increase compared to the same period in 2024. Container shipments showed particularly strong growth, with 40,200 TEUs transported, up 93 percent year-on-year. Transit through Kazakhstan increased by 65 percent, reaching 262,000 tons, primarily driven by container cargoes from China. In May 2025, Tokayev announced plans to double trans-Caspian container shipments over the next three years. These figures paint a clear picture of the rising interest in the Middle Corridor, showcasing its potential as a dependable avenue for international trade.

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