

# Black Sea Ports and Logistics

**The Black Sea as the Strategic  
Bridge of the Middle Corridor**



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**Turkish Forwarding And  
Logistics Association**

 **UTIKAD** (Turkish Forwarding And Logistics Association) is founded in 1986.

 Road, Air, Sea, Rail and Combined Transportation

 Logistics Services

 705 Members

## **PRESENCE & ORGANIZATIONS**

Public, NGO and International  
Representation: FIATA, CLECAT, IATA,  
ECOLPAF, ITF, SEEFF, SEESARI, TRACECA, F&L,  
Union of Chambers and Commodity  
Exchanges of Türkiye, Foreign Economic  
Relations Board, SEDEFED, IMEAK DTO,  
Trade Facilitation Coordination  
Committee, United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Support for Training and Events  
Global Compact  
Earth Hour  
Certificate of Equality for  
Woman at Work



## **PROJECTS & COOPERATIONS**

Collaborations with NGOs and  
Universities  
Risk Management Solutions  
Sustainable Logistics Certificate  
Industrial Cooperations




## **TRAINING & PUBLICATIONS**

FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding &  
Vocational Trainings  
Publications: Book, Reports, Magazine  
Ahmet Kartal Annual Achievement  
Award

# The Black Sea as the Strategic Bridge of the Middle Corridor



# GLOBAL TRADE ROUTES



-  Global trade routes are being reshaped by geopolitical shifts, supply chain disruptions and changing production centers.
-  The Black Sea region is becoming one of the most strategic gateways between Europe, Asia and the Middle East.
-  The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (Middle Corridor) is evolving from an alternative route into a strategic backbone for Eurasian trade resilience.





# WHY THE BLACK SEA MATTERS NOW MORE THAN EVER

## Key Drivers:



### Supply Chain Reconfiguration:

-  Nearshoring and friendshoring trends
-  Demand for diversified trade routes



### Energy and Industrial Connectivity:

-  Growing East–West energy flows
-  Industrial relocation toward regional hubs

### Geopolitical Resilience:

-  Alternative access beyond traditional chokepoints
-  Need for flexible multimodal networks

### Europe–Asia Integration:

-  Increasing importance of Central Asia and the Caucasus
-  Rising corridor cooperation initiatives

The Black Sea is no longer a peripheral geography – it is becoming a central logistics and connectivity platform

# THE NEED FOR RESILIENT CORRIDORS

## Recent global challenges:

- Pandemic disruptions
- Red Sea and Suez-related risks
- Russia–Ukraine war impacts
- Risks surrounding the Strait of Hormuz
- Rising transportation costs
- Need for diversified logistics networks



# GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS ARE CHANGING

**Countries and companies seek:**

Faster transit

Predictability

Security

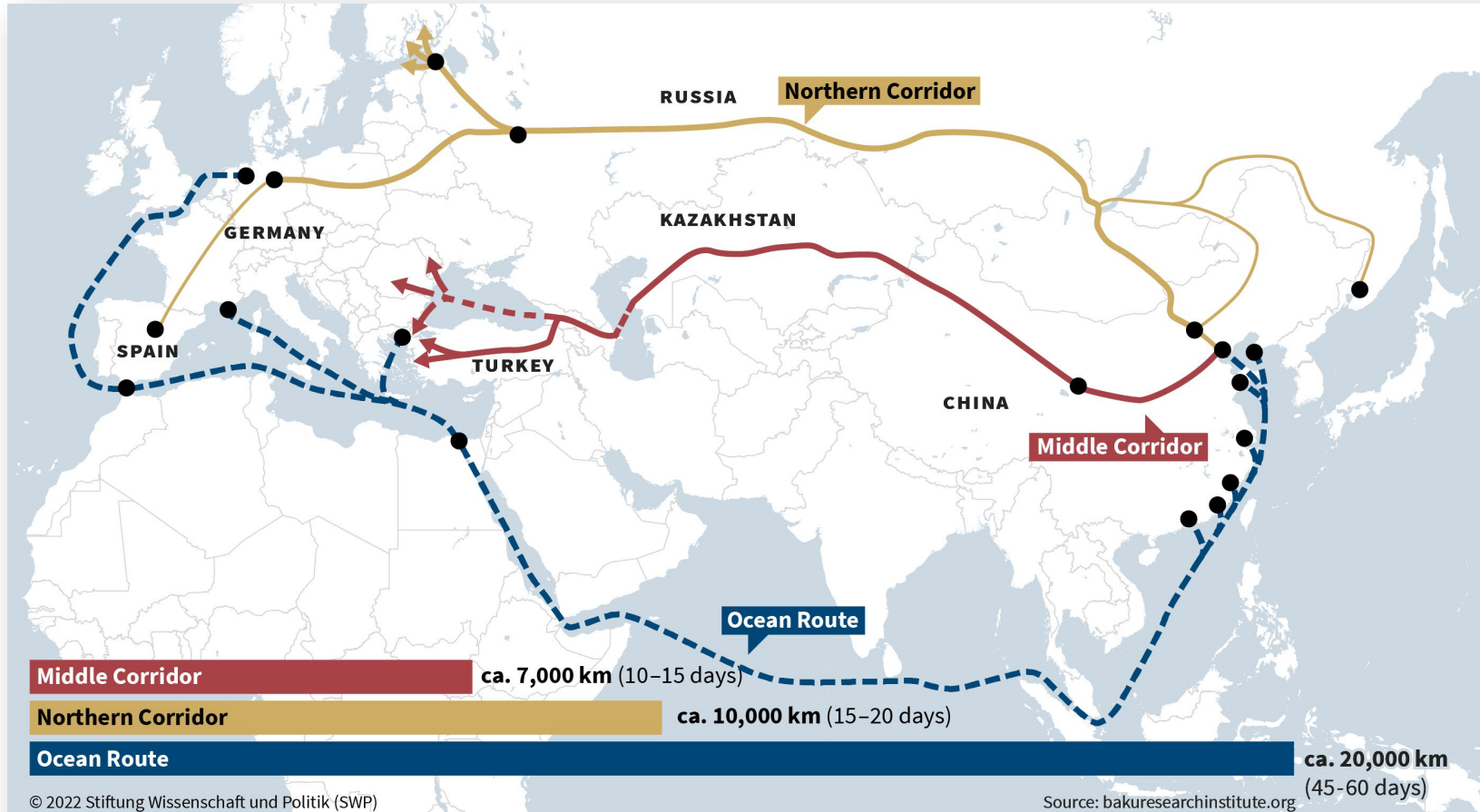
Sustainability

Regional  
partnerships



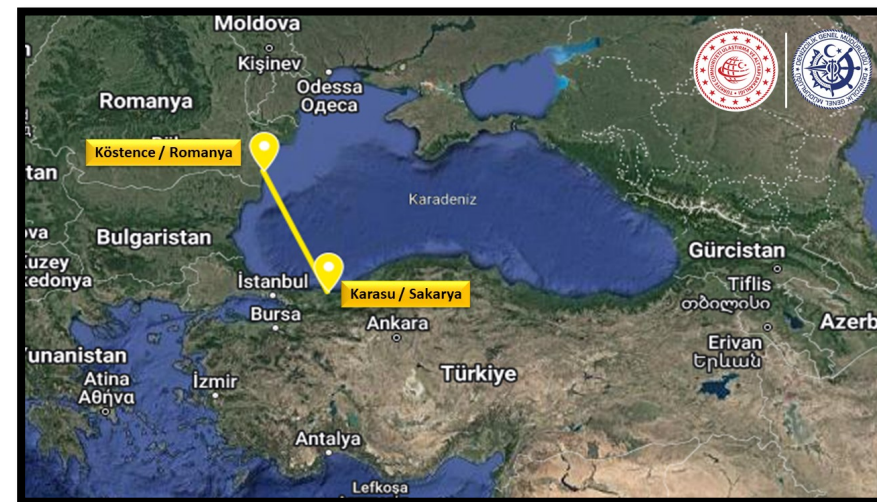
# UNDERSTANDING THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR

China → Central Asia → Caspian Sea → Caucasus → Black Sea/Türkiye → Europe



# KARASU–CONSTANTA CONNECTION: STRENGTHENING THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR THROUGH THE BLACK SEA

- Provides a direct logistics bridge between Türkiye and the European Union through the Black Sea.
- Strengthens the European leg of the Middle Corridor.
- Supports multimodal transport solutions by integrating maritime, rail and road networks.
- Reduces dependency on limited Black Sea crossing alternatives.
- Contributes to more resilient and diversified supply chains.
- As a complementary and strategic alternative to the Poti–Varna connection, the Karasu–Constanța route has the potential to diversify cargo flows across the Black Sea, expand corridor capacity, and further strengthen the overall efficiency and resilience of the Middle Corridor.



# NEW CORRIDORS EXPANDING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

## Development Road Corridor:

- Gulf–Türkiye–Europe integration potential
- Faster access between Asia, Gulf and Europe
- New multimodal investment opportunities
- Strategic complement to existing Eurasian corridors

## Zangezur Corridor:

- Potential to strengthen regional land connectivity
- Enhanced integration between Central Asia, Caucasus and Türkiye
- Opportunity for shorter transit routes
- Importance of regional cooperation and stability

**Connectivity diversification strengthens supply chain resilience.**



# STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE BLACK SEA

## The Region Connects

- Europe
- Caucasus
- Central Asia
- China
- Middle East



## Key Advantages

- Growing trade volumes
- Increasing multimodal investments
- Access to emerging markets
- Energy and industrial corridors
- Diversification from traditional trade routes

# TÜRKİYE'S STRATEGIC POSITION

## Türkiye as a Natural Logistics Hub

➤ Direct connection between continents

➤ Advanced logistics sector

➤ Strong port infrastructure






➤ Expanding rail investment

➤ Customs union advantages

➤ Dynamic private sector capability









# INTERMODALITY AS THE KEY TO CORRIDOR COMPETITIVENESS

-  Rail-sea integration
-  Decarbonization
-  CBAM implications
-  Resilience through modal diversification
-  Sustainability expectations from Europe



# KEY OBSTACLES TO CORRIDOR EFFICIENCY

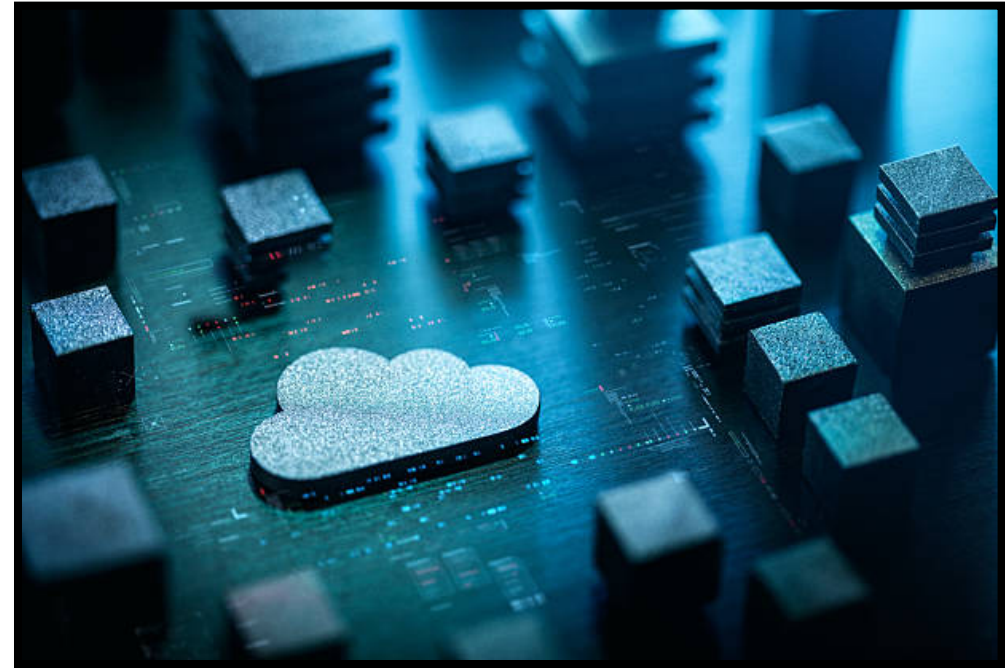
-  Border crossing delays
-  Inconsistent customs procedures
-  Infrastructure gaps
-  Limited rail capacity
-  Documentation complexity
-  Insufficient digital integration



# SMART CORRIDORS FOR SMART TRADE

## Critical digital tools:

-  E-documents
-  Single window systems
-  Digital customs
-  Cargo visibility platforms
-  AI-supported logistics planning
-  Data sharing mechanisms



# THE ROLE OF BLACK SEA COUNTRIES

## Cooperation areas:



# WHAT MUST WE DO TOGETHER?

- Harmonize customs procedures
- Accelerate digital integration
- Invest in rail and port connectivity
- Improve border efficiency
- Strengthen public-private dialogue
- Build predictable multimodal networks



**The future of the Middle Corridor depends not only on infrastructure, but on coordination and trust.**

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**THANK YOU**

