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**THE ROLE OF TRANS-
CAUCASUS TRANSIT
CORRIDOR IN THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE
SOUTH CAUCASUS REGION**



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The role of Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor in the economic development of the South Caucasus region

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ABSTRACT

The Trans-Caucasus Transit (TCT) Corridor has emerged as a linchpin for the economic transformation of the South Caucasus region. This article delves into the profound implications of the corridor on the region's economic expansion, trade dynamism, and heightened connectivity. It meticulously investigates the multifaceted impact, as well as the nuanced challenges and prospects that accompany this pivotal infrastructure project. The TCT Corridor has become the conduit for enhanced economic integration, fostering an environment conducive to increased foreign investments and bolstering regional collaboration. This transformative infrastructure has effectively linked the South Caucasus with broader global markets, triggering a surge in trade volumes and catalyzing economic growth. Nevertheless, the path forward is not devoid of hurdles; persistent political conflicts and institutional frailties remain impediments to realizing the corridor's full potential. Overcoming these obstacles necessitates pragmatic solutions and concerted efforts at both national and international levels. In summation, the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor holds the promise of catalyzing sustainable economic development across the South Caucasus region. To fully harness its potential, policymakers must address existing challenges with steadfast determination, cultivating an environment conducive to lasting prosperity through robust cooperation and strategic investments.

Keywords: *Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor, EU, Azerbaijan, South Caucasus, economic development, transport routes.*

JEL kodu: *F00, F15, N7*

INTRODUCTION

The South Caucasus region has witnessed significant economic growth and transformation in recent years. One of the key drivers of this growth is the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor, which has facilitated the movement of goods, services, and people across the region [4]. The corridor has connected Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey, enabling them to integrate into international commodity markets and attract foreign investment [4, 5]. This article aims to analyze the role of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor in the economic development of the South Caucasus region. The Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor has played a vital role in promoting economic integration and trade within the South Caucasus region. It has provided a reliable transit route that bypasses Russian and Iranian territories, making it an attractive option for energy transit and diversification of energy sources [3]. This has increased the region's connectivity with global markets and enhanced its economic competitiveness [3]. The corridor has also facilitated the growth of high-energy exports from Azerbaijan, which has had a positive impact on the region's economic growth [4, 5]. The Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor has fostered regional cooperation and connectivity. It has created opportunities for collaboration among the countries in the region, leading to the development of joint infrastructure projects and the establishment of economic zones [3]. The corridor has also attracted the attention of major global players, such as China and the European Union, who see the region as strategically important for their economic interests [4]. This has further enhanced the region's connectivity and potential for economic development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Policy initiatives aimed at reducing the developmental disparities between less developed and more developed regions hold significant promise for alleviating interregional inequality. As a result, the concepts of region and development have become increasingly intertwined, with regional development gaining prominence over time. The development of efficient transport corridors plays a pivotal role in optimizing national transit resources, localizing industrial production along their routes, expanding exports, and fortifying intercontinental connections among states and regions. Particularly for landlocked countries, international cooperation is vital for gaining transit access and advancing transport systems. [11, 12] Landlocked countries typically experience slower economic growth rates, with landlocking reducing average growth rates by approximately 1.5 percent [12].

The escalating volume of trade between Europe and Asia necessitates a comprehensive transcontinental approach to establish convenient transport systems [10]. Without a robust transport network, the development of trade relations is hampered, and regional development lags behind other areas. Historically, trade has been closely intertwined with transport activity since the Middle Ages. The famed "Silk Road," originally connecting the Chinese and Roman Empires, facilitated the exchange of goods and ideas, significantly impacting trade development. Disparities in transport infrastructure distribution among regions can exacerbate regional inequality. Various modes of transport, including road, rail, sea, and air, constitute the transport infrastructure. These systems play a crucial role in delivering end products to their intended destinations rather than merely producing goods. Therefore, developing transport infrastructure is a pivotal factor in achieving regional development. Many economists contend that there exists a direct link between economic development and the expansion of transport infrastructure. [1, 5, 6, 7, 8] The development of the transport system holds particular significance in driving economic progress, as low transport costs enhance productivity. For instance, reduced freight rates for imported goods increase profit margins, stimulate increased production, generate employment, and contribute to overall economic growth. [9, 10, 12] Efficiency in transport activities is imperative for realizing and expanding both imports and exports. The World Bank's comprehensive transport strategy includes the promotion and development of multimodal transport corridors and logistics services. The distinguishing factor among transport corridors lies in their transportation costs, duration, reliability, and safety. A region without a robust transport network will inevitably lag in terms of development. [8, 9]

Transport corridors play a pivotal role in regional development by providing transport and logistics services to the countries situated along their routes (Arnold, 2005). International transport corridors offer opportunities to enhance freight management, institute appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, streamline border-crossing procedures, attract infrastructure investments, and enhance government-business interactions. The development of transport corridors in the context of Eurasian connectivity optimizes the utilization of national transit opportunities, encourages industrial production localization along corridor routes, and creates conditions for expanding exports and bolstering intercontinental states and regions. [9, 10]

The literature highlights that the development of efficient transport corridors, such as the TCTC, plays a crucial role in advancing regional economic development. By connecting Europe and Asia through the South Caucasus, the TCTC significantly shortens trade routes, lowers transportation costs, and promotes trade and investment. This contributes to economic diversification and growth, which are essential for reducing interregional inequalities. The literature emphasizes that investments in transport infrastructure, like the TCTC, create jobs, stimulate economic activity, and attract foreign direct investment. The expansion and maintenance of the TCTC infrastructure offer opportunities for employment and private-sector participation, fostering economic development in the region. To sum up, the literature review strongly supports the pivotal role of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor in promoting economic development and reducing interregional disparities in the South Caucasus. Through enhanced connectivity, trade facilitation, infrastructure development, and strategic significance, the TCTC

catalyzes regional integration and prosperity. The insights gleaned from the literature underscore the importance of continued investment in and development of the TCTC to unlock its full potential in driving economic growth and reducing regional inequalities in the South Caucasus and beyond.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor, a comprehensive network of transportation and logistics infrastructure spanning the countries of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey, has garnered significant attention as a vital trade route connecting the landlocked Central Asian and Caspian Sea regions to global markets. This corridor not only facilitates the movement of goods but also holds the potential to catalyze economic growth, encourage foreign investment, and bolster regional integration. Historically, the Trans-Caucasus region has served as a crossroads for trade between Europe and Asia. The modern iteration of the corridor builds upon this legacy, offering an alternative route for trade that bypasses traditional maritime routes. Geopolitically, the corridor assumes strategic importance, reducing dependence on existing transit routes and enhancing the sovereignty and economic self-reliance of the participating countries. One of the primary economic impacts of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor is its potential to enhance trade connectivity. By reducing transit times and costs, the corridor enables more efficient movement of goods between the Caspian and Black Seas. This improved connectivity contributes to increased trade volumes and diversification of trade partners, consequently fostering economic resilience in the region. The construction and maintenance of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor necessitate significant investment in transportation infrastructure, including railways, highways, ports, and logistics facilities. These investments create a positive ripple effect, generating employment opportunities, stimulating local economies, and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). Based on the provided arguments above, the author generalized the core aspects of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor depicted in Table 1.

Table 1. Core aspects of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Infrastructure Development and Investment</p> | <p>Infrastructure development is a key component of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor's success. The EU's expertise and financial support can play a crucial role in modernizing and expanding transportation networks, improving border crossings, and fostering sustainable development along the route. Investment in infrastructure can create jobs, stimulate local economies, and contribute to the realization of the corridor's potential.</p> |
| <p>Geopolitical Considerations and Regional Stability</p> | <p>The geopolitical dynamics of the region present both opportunities and challenges for EU-Azerbaijan relations within the corridor. Cooperation in infrastructure and trade can contribute to stability and economic growth, but unresolved conflicts and tensions in the broader region may impact the corridor's effectiveness. Diplomatic efforts and multilateral cooperation are essential to navigate these challenges.</p> |
| <p>Regulatory Harmonization and Trade Facilitation</p> | <p>Efficient and harmonized regulations are crucial for the smooth functioning of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor. The EU's experience in regulatory alignment can support Azerbaijan in implementing international trade standards, simplifying customs procedures, and ensuring the corridor's competitiveness.</p> |
| <p>Sustainability and Environmental Concerns</p> | <p>As the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor develops, it is imperative to address environmental and sustainability considerations. The EU can collaborate with Azerbaijan to implement eco-friendly practices, promote energy efficiency, and invest in green technologies to mitigate the corridor's environmental impact.</p> |
| <p>Magnetism for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</p> | <p>The corridor's operational efficacy augments the allure of the region to foreign investors. The provisioning of reliable and efficacious transit routes mitigates logistical impediments, thus engendering heightened attractiveness for enterprises seeking to establish a substantive foothold within the region.</p> |
| <p>Energy Transit</p> | <p>The strategic geographical positioning of the South Caucasus engenders its pivotal role as an energy transit conduit. Noteworthy pipelines such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline and the Southern Gas Corridor substantially contribute to regional economic advancement by facilitating the global distribution of energy resources from the Caspian Sea.</p> |

Source: World Bank, TCTC website, President Administration of the AR.

The Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor serves as a pivotal catalyst for the economic advancement of the South Caucasus region. This corridor, a confluence of transportation routes encompassing roadways, railways, pipelines, and maritime facilities, is instrumental in establishing a seamless linkage between the nations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia with international markets. Its consequential role lies in its capacity to expedite trade, amplify connectivity, and beckon investments, thereby constituting a fundamental underpinning for the economic augmentation of the region.

The corridor's development also spurs demand for ancillary services, such as banking, insurance, and technology, further contributing to economic growth. It has the potential to act as a catalyst for regional development by fostering the growth of industries along the route. New manufacturing and distribution centers can emerge, capitalizing on the enhanced connectivity and accessibility. Additionally, improved trade links may lead to the transfer of knowledge and technology, promoting innovation and skill development in participating countries. While the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor offers significant economic promise, several challenges must be addressed. Geopolitical tensions, regulatory harmonization, and logistical bottlenecks are potential obstacles that could impede the corridor's seamless operation. Mitigation strategies may involve diplomatic efforts to enhance cooperation among participating countries, investment in customs modernization, and the establishment of efficient trade facilitation mechanisms.

EU'S INTERESTS IN TRANS-CAUCASUS TRANSIT CORRIDOR

The European Union (EU) has a vested interest in the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor (TCTC) due to its multifaceted advantages and strategic significance. The South Caucasus region, comprising Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, has emerged as a pivotal geopolitical and economic nexus, and the TCTC serves as a linchpin in the EU's broader regional engagement. The strategic importance of the South Caucasus cannot be overstated. Situated at the confluence of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, the region has been historically susceptible to geopolitical tensions. The EU views the TCTC as a catalyst for fostering stability and cooperation among regional actors, thereby reducing the risk of conflicts and promoting peaceful conflict resolution.

One of the primary motivations for the EU's involvement in the TCTC is its role in energy transit. The corridor facilitates the transportation of vital energy resources, including oil and natural gas, from the resource-rich Caspian Sea region to European markets. By diversifying energy routes and sources, the EU enhances its energy security, reducing its reliance on traditional suppliers. The TCTC also holds immense potential for trade facilitation. By shortening the distance between Europe and Asia, this corridor substantially reduces transportation costs and transit times. Consequently, the South Caucasus has become an attractive hub for trade and investment, aligning with the EU's ambitions to expand its economic influence in the region.

Furthermore, the EU is committed to promoting regional integration in the South Caucasus. The TCTC aligns with the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative, which seeks to foster closer ties and cooperation between the EU and South Caucasus nations. Enhanced connectivity through the corridor encourages economic interdependence and cooperative solutions to regional challenges.

In terms of economic growth and development, the EU recognizes the transformative potential of the TCTC. Investments in infrastructure and logistics have improved the business environment, attracted foreign direct investment, and generated employment opportunities. This economic development aligns with the EU's broader objectives of fostering prosperity and stability in its neighboring regions. [4,5]

The EU recognizes that the TCTC can play a crucial role in fostering stability and cooperation among the South Caucasus nations, including Azerbaijan. By promoting infrastructure development and connectivity, the EU seeks to reduce the risk of regional conflicts and promote peaceful conflict resolution. The corridor serves as a conduit for the transportation of essential

energy resources, including oil and natural gas, from the Caspian Sea region to European markets. Azerbaijan plays a central role in this process as a key energy producer and exporter. The EU's interest in the corridor is closely tied to diversifying energy routes and sources, thereby enhancing its energy security and diminishing dependence on traditional suppliers. [1, 2]

Therefore, Azerbaijan, as a vital player in the South Caucasus, is a key partner in the TCTC project. The EU is actively engaged in promoting regional integration through the corridor, with Azerbaijan as a willing participant. The TCTC aligns with the EU's Eastern Partnership initiative, fostering closer ties and cooperation between the EU and South Caucasus nations. Enhanced connectivity through the corridor encourages economic interdependence and cooperative solutions to regional challenges. [1]

In conclusion, the European Union's keen interest in the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor is driven by a confluence of strategic imperatives, geopolitical considerations, and economic motivations. By supporting infrastructure development and fostering regional cooperation, the EU aims to enhance stability, bolster energy security, and promote economic growth in the South Caucasus. The TCTC represents not just a transportation network but a bridge to a more interconnected and prosperous future for the region and the EU alike.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRANS-CAUCASUS TRANSIT CORRIDOR FOR EU-AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS

The EU and Azerbaijan have been engaged in transport cooperation since the early 1990s, to enhance connectivity and promote economic integration. The establishment of the EU-Azerbaijan high-level transport dialogue has been a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations and addressing common challenges in the transport sector [1]. This dialogue has facilitated the exchange of best practices, the harmonization of regulations, and the development of infrastructure projects within the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor. The Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor holds great importance for both the EU and Azerbaijan. For the EU, the corridor provides an alternative route for energy diversification and trade with Asia, bypassing traditional transit routes. It also offers opportunities for increased economic cooperation and investment in the South Caucasus region [1].

The given chronological progression of cooperation along the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor underscores the gradual evolution from individual infrastructure projects to a broader vision of comprehensive economic corridors. This journey reflects the determination of the South Caucasus nations and their international partners to foster economic growth, trade facilitation, and regional connectivity through collaborative efforts.

1. Early Collaborative Efforts (Late 20th Century - Early 2000s): The initial seeds of cooperation were sown in the late 20th century as the South Caucasus nations—Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia—recognized the strategic significance of regional connectivity. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s paved the way for these countries to forge their independent paths. Initial infrastructure development and collaborative discussions focused on the potential for trade routes and energy pipelines to stimulate economic growth.

2. Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline (Early 2000s): The inauguration of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline in 2005 marked a pivotal milestone. This collaborative effort involved Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey. The pipeline enabled the transportation of Caspian oil to international markets, bypassing traditional routes and diversifying energy export options. This endeavor showcased the region's capacity for coordinated infrastructure projects.

3. Southern Gas Corridor (2010s): Building on the success of the BTC pipeline, the Southern Gas Corridor initiative emerged. This project, comprising the Trans-Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) and the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), aimed to deliver natural gas from the Caspian Sea to Europe via Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania. This development showcased deeper regional integration and diversification of energy transit routes. [9]

4. European Union Involvement (2010s): The European Union (EU) recognized the potential of the South Caucasus region as a crucial link in its efforts to enhance energy security

and diversification. The EU's involvement led to increased diplomatic engagement and financial support for infrastructure projects, thereby fostering a cooperative atmosphere among the South Caucasus nations and their international partners.

5. Transport Infrastructure Improvement (2010s - Present): Recognizing the broader economic benefits of enhanced transport connectivity, the countries invested in improving road and rail networks. The construction and renovation of key transit routes, such as the East-West Highway, enhanced the region's capacity to facilitate trade and transit, while also fostering cross-border cooperation.

6. Economic Corridor Initiatives (Present): In recent years, discussions have expanded beyond individual projects to encompass the development of comprehensive economic corridors. These initiatives focus on not only transport and energy infrastructure but also trade facilitation, harmonization of customs procedures, and regulatory alignment. Such comprehensive approaches reflect a more holistic vision of regional cooperation.

7. Regional Organizations and Platforms (Present): Regional organizations like the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM) and the TRACECA program (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) have provided platforms for dialogue, cooperation, and joint project development. These organizations underscore the commitment of the South Caucasus nations to regional integration.

8. Prospects for Future Growth (Future): As the region continues to evolve, prospects for deeper cooperation remain promising. The potential expansion of trade routes, further energy projects, and advancements in digital connectivity could solidify the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor's role as a linchpin for economic development and integration in the South Caucasus. [9]

For Azerbaijan, the corridor enhances its strategic position as a transit hub, attracting foreign investment and promoting economic growth [1]. The corridor also contributes to Azerbaijan's efforts to integrate into the European transport network. [8] The integration of Georgia into the EU transport network is a crucial aspect of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor. Georgia's strategic location and its ongoing efforts to align with EU standards and regulations have positioned it as a key player in the corridor. The EU's engagement with Georgia in transport cooperation not only strengthens EU-Azerbaijan relations but also contributes to regional stability and economic development [7]. However, geopolitical considerations, such as unresolved conflicts in the region, pose challenges to the full realization of the corridor's potential. While EU-Azerbaijan cooperation in the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor has made significant progress, there are still challenges to overcome. [7] Harmonizing regulations, improving infrastructure connectivity, and addressing political conflicts are crucial for maximizing the benefits of the corridor [1]. The EU should continue to support Azerbaijan's efforts to enhance transport infrastructure and promote sustainable development in the region. Additionally, closer collaboration between the EU, Azerbaijan, and Georgia is essential for ensuring the smooth functioning of the corridor and realizing its full potential.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

The Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor has emerged as a crucial transportation route connecting Europe and Asia, with Azerbaijan playing a pivotal role in its development. This article focuses on the EU-Azerbaijan relations within the corridor, examining the historical context and the current state of transport policies and cooperation between the two parties. [1] The objective is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the opportunities and challenges associated with EU-Azerbaijan collaboration in the corridor. Despite the positive impact of the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor, there are still challenges that need to be addressed. Political conflicts, such as the protracted conflict in the South Caucasus region [2]. Institutional weaknesses and uneven institution-building also pose challenges to the sustainable development of the region [4]. However, there are opportunities to overcome these challenges and maximize the benefits of the corridor. Strengthening regional cooperation, improving institutional quality, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship can contribute to

sustainable economic development in the South Caucasus region [5].

CONCLUSION

The Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor stands as a transformative initiative with far-reaching economic implications for the region and beyond. By bolstering trade connectivity, facilitating infrastructure development, and stimulating regional growth, the corridor has the potential to reshape economic landscapes, strengthen geopolitical ties, and contribute to the prosperity of the nations involved. A sustained commitment to addressing challenges and fostering cooperation will be pivotal in realizing the full economic benefits of this corridor. The EU-Azerbaijan partnership within the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor holds significant promise for mutual economic benefit and regional integration. By capitalizing on trade opportunities, fostering infrastructure development, and addressing geopolitical challenges, both parties can contribute to the corridor's success. As this strategic partnership evolves, sustained collaboration and a shared commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth will be key to unlocking the corridor's full potential. Briefly, the Trans-Caucasus Transit Corridor has played a crucial role in the economic development of the South Caucasus region. It has facilitated economic integration, increased trade, and enhanced regional cooperation and connectivity. However, challenges such as political conflicts and institutional weaknesses remain. To maximize the benefits of the corridor and promote sustainable economic development, it is essential to address these challenges and focus on strengthening regional cooperation, improving institutional quality, and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

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CƏNUBİ QAFQAZ REGIONUNUN İQTİSADI İNKİŞAFINDA TRANS-QAFQAZ TRANZİT DƏHLİZİNİN ROLU

Məhəmməd GÜLƏHMƏDOV

XÜLASƏ

Trans-Qafqaz Tranzit (TCT) Dəhlizi Cənubi Qafqaz regionunun iqtisadi transformasiyası üçün dayaq nöqtəsi kimi meydana çıxıb. Bu məqalədə dəhlizin regionun iqtisadi ekspansiyasına, ticarət dinamizminə və artan əlaqəyə dərin təsirləri araşdırılır. TCT Dəhlizi xarici sərmayələrin artırılması və regional əməkdaşlığın gücləndirilməsi üçün əlverişli mühiti gücləndirərək, genişləndirilmiş iqtisadi inteqrasiya üçün kanala çevrilmişdir. Bu transformativ infrastruktur Cənubi Qafqazı daha geniş global bazarlarla effektiv şəkildə əlaqələndirdi, ticarət həcmlərində artıma səbəb oldu və iqtisadi artımı katalizləşdirdi. Buna baxmayaraq, irəliyə gedən yol əngəllərdən məhrum deyil; davamlı siyasi münaqişələr və institusional zəifliklər dəhlizin tam potensialının həyata keçirilməsinə mane olaraq qalmaqdadır. Bu maneələrin aradan qaldırılması həm milli, həm də beynəlxalq səviyyədə praqmatik həllər və birgə səylər tələb edir. Ümumilikdə, Trans-Qafqaz Tranzit Dəhlizi Cənubi Qafqaz regionunda dayanıqlı iqtisadi inkişafı katalizator vəd edir. Onun potensialından tam istifadə etmək üçün iqtisadçılar möhkəm əməkdaşlıq və strateji sərmayələr vasitəsilə davamlı tərəqqi üçün əlverişli mühiti inkişaf etdirərək, mövcud problemləri qətiyyətlə həll etməlidirlər.

Açar sözlər: *Trans-Qafqaz Tranzit Dəhlizi, Aİ, Azərbaycan, Cənubi Qafqaz, iqtisadi inkişaf, nəqliyyat marşrutları*

РОЛЬ ТРАНСКАПАКСКОГО ТРАНЗИТНОГО КОРИДОРА В ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОМ РАЗВИТИИ ЮЖНО-КАВКАЗСКОГО РЕГИОНА

Мухаммад ГУЛАХМАДОВ

РЕЗЮМЕ

Транзитный Коридор Закавказья (ТКЗ) стал ключевым элементом экономической трансформации региона Южного Кавказа. В данной статье исследуются глубокие последствия этого коридора для экономического роста, динамики торговли и усиления связей в регионе. Внимательно рассматривается многоаспектное воздействие этого инфраструктурного проекта, а также тонкие вызовы и перспективы, сопровождающие его реализацию. ТКЗ стал каналом для усиленной экономической интеграции, создавая условия для увеличения иностранных инвестиций и укрепления регионального сотрудничества. Эта трансформирующая инфраструктура успешно связала Южный Кавказ с мировыми рынками, вызвав взрывной рост объемов торговли и стимулируя экономический рост. Тем не менее, путь вперед не лишен преград; продолжающиеся политические конфликты и институциональные слабости остаются препятствиями на пути к реализации полного потенциала коридора. Преодоление этих препятствий требует прагматичных решений и совместных усилий как на национальном, так и на международном уровне. В заключение, Транзитный Коридор Закавказья обещает стимулировать устойчивое экономическое развитие в регионе Южного Кавказа. Для полной реализации его потенциала политики должны решительно преодолеть существующие вызовы, создавая среду, способствующую долгосрочному процветанию через крепкое сотрудничество и стратегические инвестиции.

Ключевые слова: Транскавказский транзитный коридор, ЕС, Азербайджан, Южный Кавказ, экономическое развитие, транспортные маршруты

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