



October 12, 2023 14:00-19:30

Greater Caspian Forum 2023, Zurich Edition

“The Greater Caspian Region – A Middle Corridor for Energy, Logistics and Trade Flows between Asia and Europe”

Venue: Credit Suisse Forum St. Peter, St. Peterstrasse 19, Zurich

Background

The Trans-Caspian Trade and Transit Corridor, also known as the Middle Corridor, is a key block of European and Asian connectivity. Comprised of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and Turkey to the west, and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan to the east of the Caspian Sea, the corridor serves as an essential overland route linking the European Union, China, India, and the Middle East.

The Middle Corridor encompasses both rail and road routes, with key maritime ports on the Caspian Sea serving as pivotal hubs. The Baku International Sea Trade Port in Azerbaijan, Aktau and Kuryk Ports in Kazakhstan and the Turkmenbashi Port in Turkmenistan provide crucial access to the Caspian Sea and enable connectivity between Central Asia and Europe.

There is a growing demand in Europe for energy sources. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, along with other Central Asian countries are looking to expand their energy industry, including green energy, and can win big by becoming energy suppliers to Europe.

In 2018, the legal status of the Caspian Sea was close to being resolved. At the time this was seen as an alternative westward corridor that could help Caspian States diversify the countries to which they export. While the corridor has not yet reached its full potential, Russia's war in Ukraine and the proliferation of sanctions, once again highlights the importance of the region as an alternative energy, logistics and trade hub, linking East and West.

Forum Focus

The JCC Greater Caspian Region Forum will examine the following topics:

- The Greater Caspian Region as a source of traditional and renewable energy, multi-modal logistical linkages and trade flows between Europe and Asia;
- The Trans-Caspian Trade and Transit Corridor (TCIT)/Middle Corridor as a route for transporting cargo and energy;
- The potential for significant development in the next few years and business opportunities for Swiss and international companies.

Program

14:00– 14:45	Registration and Coffee
14:45 – 14:55	Welcome Statement Marcel Pawlicek, President, Joint Chamber of Commerce Switzerland-Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Caucasus (JCC)
14:55 – 15:10	Philippe Welti , President, Swiss-Iranian Chamber of Commerce
15:10 – 15:25	Setting the Scene: Update on Energy, Logistics and Trade Flows in the Greater Caspian Region in 2023 Murat Seitnepesov, President, Greater Caspian Region Association; Chairman, Integral Group
15:25 – 15:45	Impact of Sanctions on the Trans-Caspian Corridor as Routes for Energy and Trade Ambassador Matthew Bryza, Former White House and Senior State Department Official for Europe and Eurasia
15:45 – 16:00	How to Develop the Trans-Caspian Corridors More Rapidly and Efficiently? Leila Batyrbekova, Founder and Secretary General, Europe and Central Asia Transport and Trade Association ECATA
16:00 – 16:15	Experiences of Freight Forwarders in the Caspian Region: Conditions, Challenges and Trends Stéphane Graber, Director General, International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA)
	Panel Discussions
16:25 – 17:15	Panel 1: Women in Business in the Caspian Region Panelists: Leila Batyrbekova, ECATA; President, WISTA (tbc); Ruth Sandelowsky, Kolmar (tbc), Shirin Seitnepesova, Greater Caspian Association
17:30 – 18:30	Panel 2: Connectivity, the Key to Sustainable Development Panelists: Murat Seitnepesov, Ambassador Matthew Bryza, Stéphane Graber, 2 companies (Sulzer, M&M tbc) Moderator: Cornelia Meyer, Chairman & CEO, MRL Corporation
18:30 – 19:30	Networking Reception