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# Logistics Processes and Motorways of the Sea II

## Country Profile

*TURKMENISTAN*

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AGR	European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries
AGTC	European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport and related Installations
AIS	Automatic Identification System
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
CASPAR	Azerbaijan State Caspian Sea Shipping Company
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CLC	International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage
COLREG	The International Regulations for Preventing collisions at Sea
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
FEZ	Free Economic Zone
IFI	International Financing Institution
ILC	International Logistic Centre
IMO	International Maritime Organization
LL	The International Convention on Load Lines
LOGMOS	Logistics Processes and Motorways of the Sea
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MARPORL	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships
MLA	Multilateral Agreement
MOS	Motorways of the Sea
OSJD	Organization for Cooperation of Railways
SOLAS	The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
STCW	The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers
SUA	The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation
SWS	Single Window System
TACIS	Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States
TONNAGE	The International Convention on Tonnage measurements of Ships

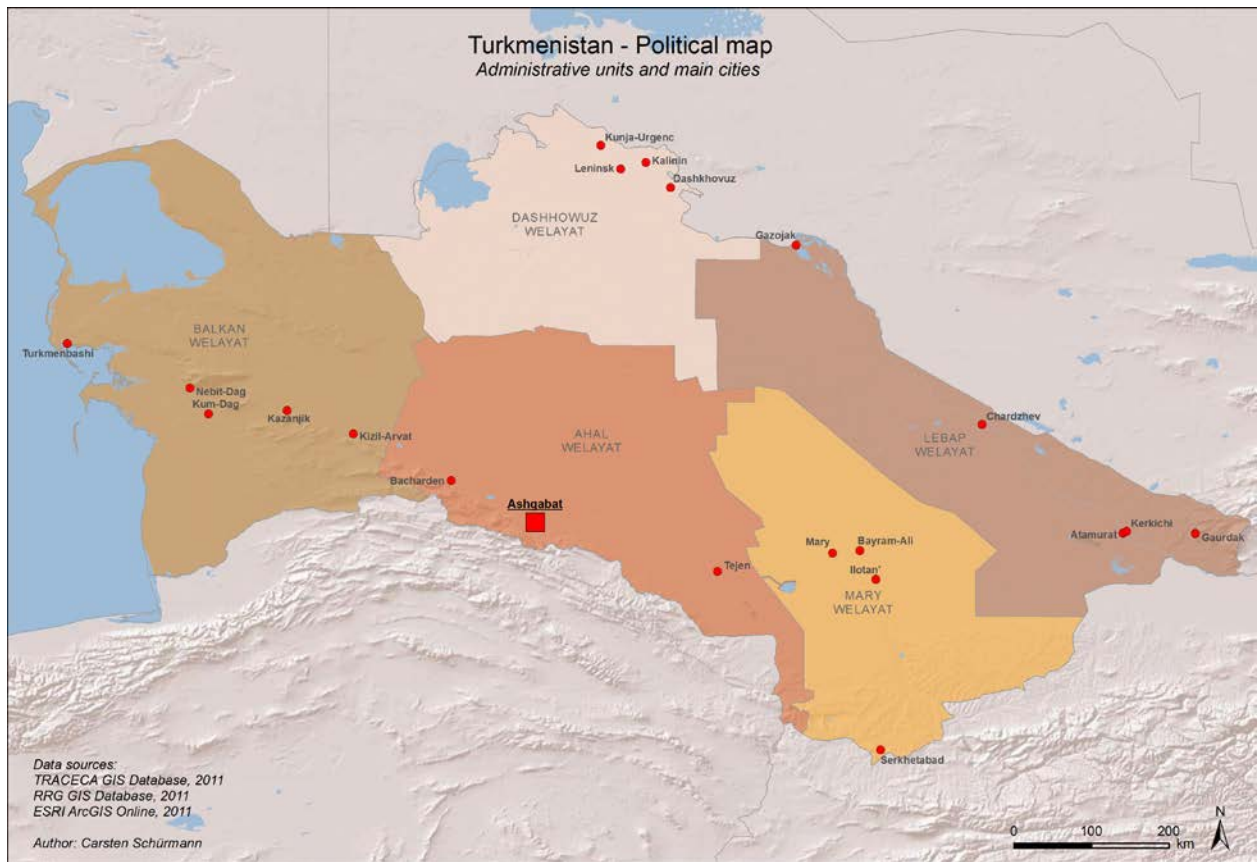


**Logistics Processes and Motorways of the Sea II**

TRACECA	Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
USD	United States Dollar
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organisation



Figure 1: General Map of Turkmenistan



Source: TRACECA (2011)



## 1 INTRODUCTION

Turkmenistan is located in the South-West of Central Asia. It borders Kazakhstan in the North, Uzbekistan in the North-East, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the South-East and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the South. Turkmenistan also possesses a maritime façade with the Caspian Sea in the West. The country is administratively divided into five regions (welayatlar) Akhal, Balkan, Dashoguz, Lebap and Mary and one district for the capital-city: Ashgabat.

The transport network in Turkmenistan is limited due to landscape geographical morphology: over 80% of the country is covered by the Karakum dry desert. The almost 3 000 km railway network is composed of two main lines stretching from West to East and one North-South line. The road network comprises 24 000 km of roads which connect the five regions together. Turkmenbashi is the main international port of the country and an important gateway for all the Central Asia countries. It is therefore of decisive importance for TRACECA interests.

Due to its strategic location and its membership in various regional and international organisations (CIS, ECO, IMO, OSJD, UNECE, UNESCAP) Turkmenistan is crossed by several international transport corridors:

- TRACECA corridor
- OSJD corridors VI and X
- CAREC Corridors II and III

The TRACECA program was launched in 1993 as one of the component of intergovernmental TACIS program. In spite of the fact that Turkmenistan did not join TRACECA and did not sign the basic Multilateral Agreement (MLA) on the development of transport corridor Europe – Caucasus – Asia, it took and keeps taking an active part in TRACECA activity. TACIS (TACIS office is permanently closed in Turkmenistan, now Europa House is the organization dealing with European projects) enjoys a remarkable fame in Turkmenistan and is highly praised for all the training and vocational programs it supports locally.

Since 1995 Turkmenistan was involved in 26 projects of technical assistance dealing with technical and institutional issues. Three investment projects, financed by the European Union, were implemented in Turkmenistan:

- Container services between Baku and Turkmenbashi, 1998-1999, 2.65 M euros;
- Cargo and container handling equipment for the cotton export logistics centre near Bukhara (Uzbekistan), and for the seaports of Baku (Azerbaijan), Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan), Poti (Georgia) and Ilyichevsk (Ukraine), 1998-1999, 56.825 M euros;
- Supply of navigational aid equipment, 2003, 1.6 M euros.