

# Review of: "The Strategy of Russia in the Trans-Eurasian Connectivity"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript entitled "The Strategy of Russia in the Trans-Eurasian Connectivity" by Dr. Shoaib Khan has been reviewed. The paper is interesting, but explosively focused on INSTEC. This paper maybe considered for publication, but after addressing following comments:

1. The abstract contains repeated sentences, particularly the sentence about ongoing challenges, bureaucratic delays, and inter-regional disputes. Consider avoiding duplication to improve conciseness.
2. The abstract mentions the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by China since 2014 and the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in 2015. Provide a bit more context or clarity on the chronological order of events to enhance understanding.
3. Instead of just mentioning challenges in Abstract, mention some specific examples or types of challenges that the INSTC might face, such as regulatory hurdles, geopolitical tensions, or infrastructure bottlenecks.
4. Ensure that all factual information, such as the establishment of the EAEU in 2015, is accurate and up-to-date.
5. Consider writing the abstract in standard format for better readability.
6. Correlate your work the latest research on the topic such as: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00477-023-02474-5>
7. Ensure that all references to sources are correctly formatted and cited. In academic writing, proper citation is crucial for transparency and academic integrity. For example, include page numbers when referencing specific information from a source.
8. This might be beneficial to introduce all abbreviations when they are first mentioned such as INSTEC.
9. Maintain consistency in the structure of the conclusion. For instance, the paragraph starting with "The carrying capacity of the INSTC..." seems to introduce a new section. Consider separating it into a new paragraph for better organization.
10. When discussing the lack of a long-term strategy for the INSTC compared to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), consider providing more context or potential implications of this observation. It could be elaborated upon to enhance the depth of the conclusion.
11. While mentioning the political and strategic challenges faced by INSTC, it would be beneficial to elaborate on potential opportunities that may arise from these challenges. This could include diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts or the emergence of alternative routes.
12. The conclusion mentions Russia's interest in INSTC as an important trade and energy tool, but it could be helpful to discuss how other member countries, particularly Iran and India, perceive and strategically align with INSTC in the face of geopolitical challenges.

13. Consider providing a brief outlook or suggestions for the future development of INSTC. This could include potential strategies for overcoming challenges, fostering cooperation among member states, and navigating geopolitical complexities.