

# THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AND ITS MEANING FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE BLACK SEA REGION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Cooperans

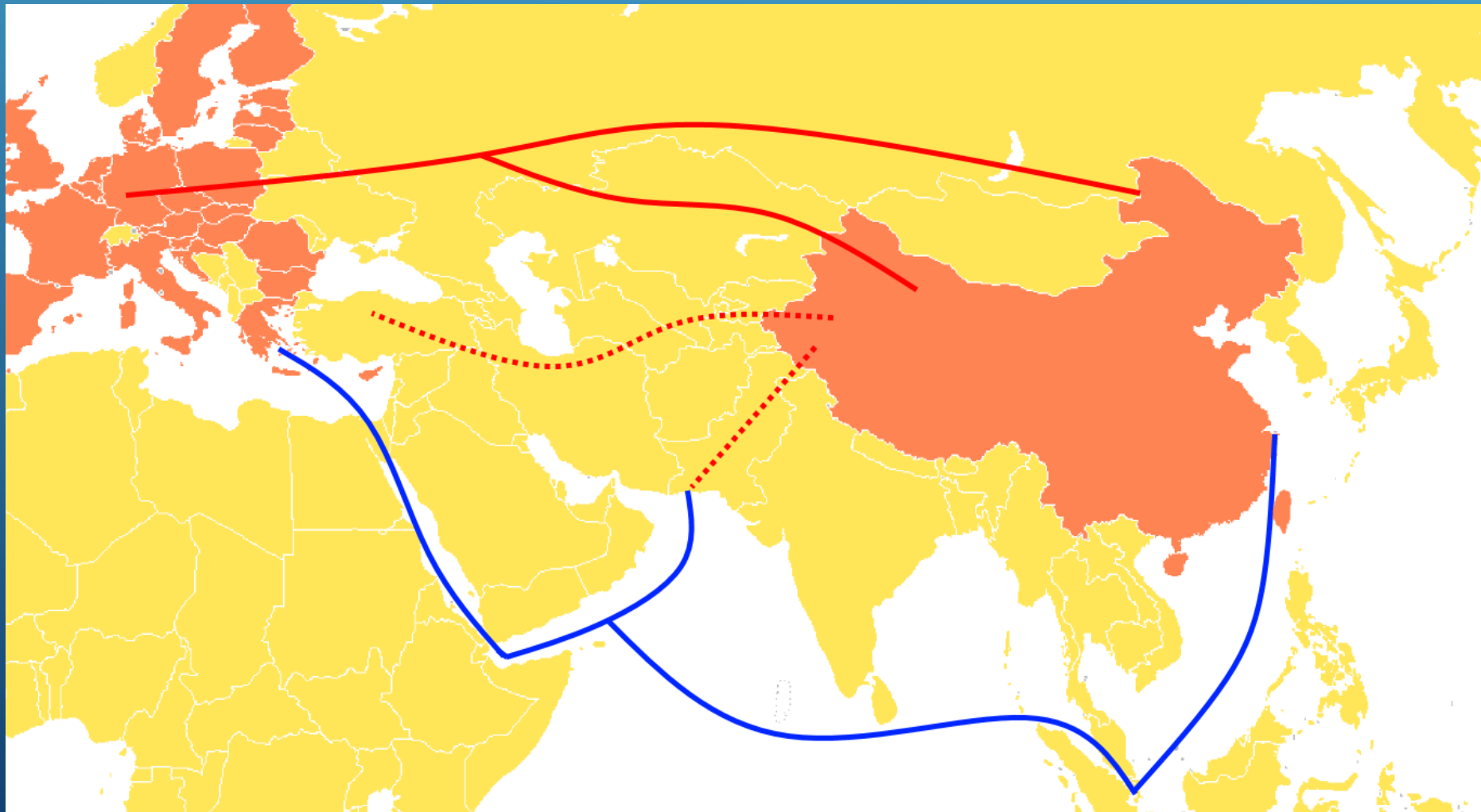
Webinar on Transport in the Balkan and Black Sea region  
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# THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

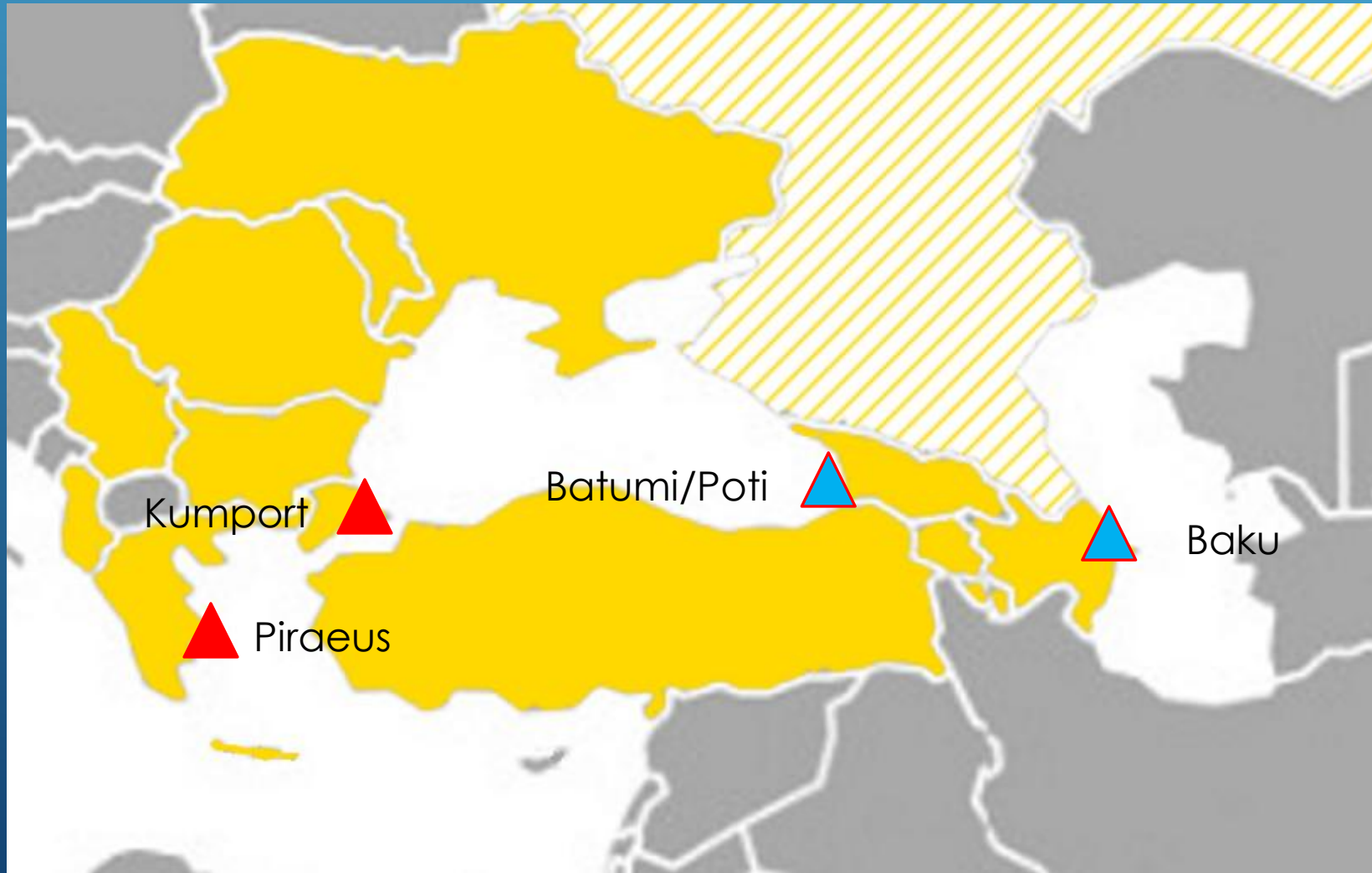


- Launched in 2013 to revive the old Silk Road
- Both continental and maritime
- Transport, infrastructure, but not only
  - A free-trade world, promoted by Xi Jinping at Davos Forum in 2017
- Not only about China: accompany development policies in many countries: Pakistan, Ethiopia, Laos...

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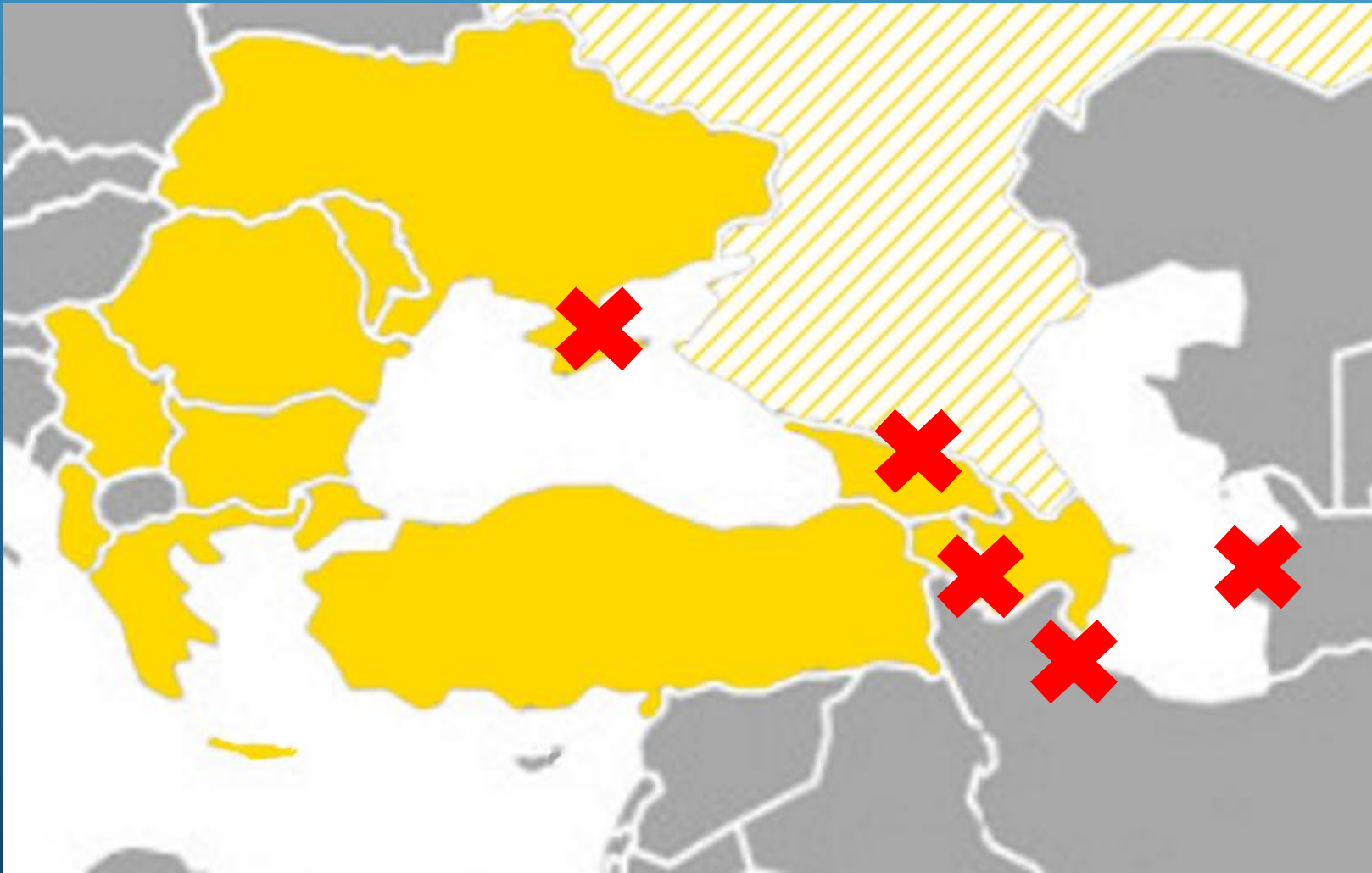


# BRI PROJECT IN THE BLACK SEA REGION



- Aspiration to transform the region into a transportation hub between Asia and Europe
- Some freight services from China to Baku
- How to go further?

# 1) GEOPOLITICAL OBSTACLES





## 2) THE RUSSIAN WAYS



### 3) THE CHINESE ROUTE IN THE BALKANS



Chinese investments in the Balkan region under the Belt and Road project

- bridge in Croatia
- Highway in Montenegro
- Highway network in Moldova

Local projects conducted by Chinese companies

But also major connectivity project:

- Piraeus port
- Budapest-Belgrade line

Large projects to access large markets  
(Piraeus port not only for Greece, but Southeast Europe)



# 4) EU-ASIA FREIGHT RAIL TRANSPORTATION



- Rail transportation limited (not more than 10% of all trade) (priority given to maritime roads)
- Routes receive subsidies by Chinese authorities
- Trains coming back from Europe to China not always at full capacity



# FROM CONTINENTAL TO REGIONAL PROJECT



Challenges to face:

- 1) Regional coordination
  - ✓ Regional competition leading to infrastructure replication
  - ✓ Regional Markets
- 2) Multimodality/transportation hub to be a priority.
  - ✓ Port projects to be complemented with airport and rail connection
- 3) To be more than just a transit point
  - ✓ Necessity to develop industries



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