

COSMOS Press Release

Frankfurt am Main, 29.04.2013 - final

## **First Round Table Meeting of the COSMOS Project conducted in Ljubljana on April 23, 2013**

**The Round Table convened high-level representatives of the Slovenian intermodal industry and stakeholders who discussed recent achievements and future prospects of intermodal transport in Slovenia and achieved a consent about the general growth perspective and relevant measures that will be necessary to foster the increase of intermodal rail services.**

The meeting, that was moderated by COSMOS project manager Uwe Sondermann (KombiConsult, Frankfurt am Main) who concluded the following results:

- Participants enjoyed the lively discussion and common objective to draw conclusion on measures for the further improvement of the intermodal sector in Slovenia
- Participants agreed to the major findings of the draft “road map” that was prepared by COSMOS partners and which are:
  - 6 per cent increase of the total annual intermodal volume (2011/2010)
  - Strategic position of Ljubljana as a rail hub on the cross roads between maritime and continental transport flows;
  - Port of Koper as access port to Balkan countries, Austria, Hungary Czech and Slovak Republic
  - Basically trade-oriented economy with skilled workforce
- Participants support the general growth path of the sector in Slovenia, but the realisation would require some work
- Measures of primary importance are:
  - Koper – Divaca 500 → 550 m train length by improving one station
  - Electrification Pragersko – Hodos
  - Removal of 20 tons axle load sections (punctual measures)
  - Koper Divaca 2nd rail line

Further Round Table meetings will be organised within the COSMOS project in Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia in the next 12 months.

### Responsible:

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### **About COSMOS:**

COSMOS stands for Cooperative Solutions for Managing Optimized Services and is the reply to the market needs for improved cooperative intermodal freight services in South-East Europe.

The CREAM project and DIOMIS studies on intermodal rail freight transport in South East Europe (SEE) have shown a large market potential for seamless intermodal transport chains on dedicated pan European transport corridors or sections thereof. The two recent projects showed also a large discrepancy between the requirements of shippers and logistics service providers and the usual product railways and intermodal operators could offer to them in SE-Europe.

Against that background the present Common Learning Action COSMOS addresses these issues and sets the following objectives:

1. Designing and implementing “good practices” to become more efficient in supplying (intermodal) railway services, completed by a “good practice manual”.
2. Training on identified “good practices” to improve skills in view of their successful implementation performed by a series of training courses.
3. Periodical exchange of information for developing a mechanism and procedure for developing coordinated international intermodal services.
4. Designing and implementing a knowledge platform for better accessibility and transparency of railway / intermodal services among each other and towards (potential) customers and shippers.
5. Promoting and disseminating intermodal transport towards targeted stakeholders.

These measures will lead to improved cooperation for structurally optimizing working methods and service offer in rail freight transport in SEE countries that will prepare for a further modal shift due to the involvement of market parties and stakeholders.

The project is carried out by a consortium of 12 undertakings, representing a mix of experienced intermodal operators, railway undertakings, terminal operators, logistics service providers, and consultancies.

The works which are financially supported in the framework of a Marco Polo Common Learning Action started on September 1, 2012, and shall be completed within 24 months according to the schedule.

More information is available on the website [www.intermodal-cosmos.eu](http://www.intermodal-cosmos.eu).

### **About KombiConsult:**

KombiConsult is a consulting firm specialized in intermodal logistics. We are working on modal shift projects, rail freight transport and intermodal terminal improvement programmes for institutional and business customers. [www.kombiconsult.com](http://www.kombiconsult.com).

Foto (free use with quoting the source):

**Port of Koper at night**



Source: Uwe Sonderrmann, KombiConsult