

COSMOS Press Release

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2nd Round Table Meeting of the COSMOS Project conducted in Praha on September 19, 2013

The Round Table convened high-level representatives of the Czech intermodal industry and international stakeholders who discussed recent achievements and future prospects of intermodal transport in the Czech Republic 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 was moderated by COSMOS project manager Uwe Sondermann (KombiConsult, Frankfurt am Main) who concluded the following results which were agreed upon with invited participants:

- Intermodal or combined (CT) transport in the Czech Republic accounts for 8.2 million net tons in 2012.
- It is dominated by maritime transport (84% of the volume) of the seaports of Bremerhaven/ Hamburg, partly Rotterdam and Koper.
- Container transport by barge & RoLa services don't play a role.
- The growth path of the intermodal transport volume (+250% in last 12 years) could be continued in the years to come (+5% p.a. until 2020) if certain actions are taken by the sector:
 - Shuttle train operation concept – like in the maritime sector – also extended to further continental routes, and linking domestic antennas, e.g. with Moravia region;
 - Coordinated terminal investment and „neutral“ access for multi users;
 - Investment into intermodal equipment by road hauliers as their „commitment“ potentially supported with another easy-to-use State Aid;
 - Training of personal engaged with transport decisions on the merits of intermodal transport.
- Higher weight for all road vehicles (48 t) is counterproductive for development of (continental) CT, in particular since only minimum incentives (exemption from vehicle tax and weekend driving ban) are applied in addition.
- Infrastructure investments to remove identified bottlenecks are:
 - Connectivity to RFC/TEN-T network to be improved, since main corridors cover the countries industrial and population centres;
 - Almost all lines with class D4 (22.5 t/axle) and loading profile P/C 78/402, despite one section where options are identified;

- Inconsistent maximum permitted train length < 700m impede efficiency gains in CT and requires harmonization on high level;
- Capacity limitation on significant sections of corridor lines due to mix of pax and freight services shall be treated with priority;

Further Round Table meetings will be organised within the COSMOS project for Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia in the next 6 months. The first Round Table was held in Ljubljana in April 2013.

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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 experi-



enced 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.

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.