

COSMOS Press Release

Frankfurt am Main, 06.06.2014

## **5th Intermodal Road Map completed for Bulgaria**

**As a results of the Round table on 25.02.2014 and further stakeholder consultation the 5th Intermodal Road Map of the COSMOS project covering Bulgaria has been elaborated within the time frame of the COSMOS project.**

The Round Table convened high-level representatives of the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, the inter-modal industry and international stakeholders who discussed recent achievements and future prospects of intermodal transport in Bulgaria. They achieved a consent about the challenges that need to be faced for further growth and relevant measures that will be necessary to foster the increase of intermodal rail services.

The meeting was jointly prepared by consultancy companies HaCon and KombiConsult and moderated by COSMOS project manager Uwe Sondermann (KombiConsult, Frankfurt am Main) who concluded the following results which were agreed upon with invited participants:

- Bulgaria is strategically located on the cross roads of European/Asian trade lanes with direct access to the black sea by own ports, Aegean sea via Thessaloniki;
- Potential cargo flows which could be modally shifted from road to intermodal rail / road services are operated by a variety of small road hauliers which show only little attempts to share their revenues with intermodal/rail operators;
- The “chicken-and-egg” situation between appropriate infrastructure and intermodal services is still existing although intermodal terminals Stara Zagora is operational, Sofia “Yana” was built and in Plovdiv building is said to start soon;
- Rail infrastructure along the Rail Freight Corridor (RFC) 7 needs to be completed at highest priority to supply harmonised operation conditions across border.
- European funds supporting these “multimodal” corridors are generally available and need to be requested in the framework of the Operational Programmes” (OP) Transport at national level;
- The concertation with stakeholders, such as ports, rail-road terminals, railway undertakings, and other users of the infrastructure are carried out in the framework of the “Trans-European Core Network Corridors”;
- Already at national level the transport sector stakeholders should join their forces to provide a coherent set of projects which will deliver an added value for the shippers and transport operators with respect to efficient, fast and reliable transport by intermodal rail road services;

The Sofia event was the 5th in a series of in total six Round Table meetings which have been organised within the COSMOS project for Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia since April 2013.

Responsible:

Klaus-Uwe Sondermann, KombiConsult GmbH

Phone +49.69.244 32 93 – 172, Fax +49.69.244 32 93 - 179

E-Mail [usondermann@kombiconsult.com](mailto:usondermann@kombiconsult.com), Web [www.kombiconsult.com](http://www.kombiconsult.com)

**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).