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THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION OF COMBINED TRANSPORT

Transmitted by the Government of Hungary

HUNGARY

Hungary possesses the first place in Central and Eastern Europe in rail/road combined transportation. The national railway company made 66 freight trains run per day in 2002 in international traffic, out of which 21 (over 30%) were block trains of rolling road and unaccompanied combined transport services in 16 relations. Their network has been extended to 3 new relations with 8 pairs of trains weekly in 2002 and the process goes on further.

The goal is to double the 10% share of combined traffic in international rail freight traffic by 2005 through utilization of Hungary's accession to the European Union from 1 May 2004. In 1996 the concept of development of a national network of 13 logistic centres (3 of them in Budapest) with private capital's involvement was adopted. In its implementation, 4 centres (2 in Budapest) are in operation, a further 4 are in the construction phase (the terminal section of the largest one, Budapest Intermodal Logistic Centre will open in October 2003). The full completion of the network is forecast for 2014.

LITHUANIA

With the intention of further developing combined transport, the combined transport train named "Vikingas" is operating from 6 February 2003. The idea of organizing a combined transport train (for transportation of containers, contrailers) on the route from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea emerged in 1999, after the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Lithuanian and Ukrainian transport ministers (Vilnius) and assuming obligations regarding development of transport connections in the Middle Section of the Crete Corridor IX. From 2000 Belarus Railways also joined this project. In September 2002 the combined transport train on the route Odesa-Klaipeda-Odesa was named "Viking".

SLOVAKIA

- Maximum efforts in stabilizing current customers and attracting new customers, mainly through a flexible business and tariff policy.
- Improving the quality of transport with the current combined transport trains, service provision for customers, regular meetings with combined transport operators, regular negotiations with the neighbouring railways administrations CD, PKP, MAV as to the compliance with the agreed technological times at the PPS, negotiations with customs authorities regarding the improvement of train quality.
- Commercial negotiations with combined transport operators, elaboration of new price bids - participation of the section-employees in tariff-committees sessions; the work in the 3rd OSZD commission and in the UIC.
- Based on the requirements of users, mayors, promoters of the Orava region (Northern Slovakia) and the Železničná spoločnosť a.s. plans (in cooperation with Hungarian railways) a new combined train (block train) project in the Ro-La system, i.e. on the track Budafok Háros – Trstená. This project should soon be launched.

SLOVENIA

The strategic market orientation is control of the initial and final cargo terminals (logistic terminals) and offering of competitive transport services across Slovenia. In certain cases logistic services are also offered in Slovenia (Moste Logistic Center – strategic project). The development of new products (Express, Door to Door) should be carried out concurrently, as well as preparation of the free access to the international railway infrastructure.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Directions and Guidance issued by the Secretary of State to the SRA requires the Authority to contribute to the development of an integrated system of transport for passengers and goods. Towards this end the SRA has helped to establish and promote a number of joint initiatives between train operators and other transport operators. For example in Essex, the bus operator, First Group, is experimenting with "add on" bus services to towns with no railway stations and through ticketing to cover both rail and bus use.

Another example of combined transport is the Traintaxi website. All users of the UK rail network can use it to find out the details of licensed taxicab and private hire operators serving all 2,500 stations in Great Britain, so they can pre-book and be met on arrival at all stations.
