

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Hinterland Connections of Seaports



UNITED NATIONS

The Role of Seaports as a Link between Inland and Maritime Transport
17 - 18 September 2008 - Piraeus, Greece

Background

Fast and sweeping economic globalization has revealed infrastructure and regulatory impediments to efficient and smooth transport operations, most notably in seaports as interface points with inland transport modes.

Recognizing the need to better connect seaports with their hinterland, member countries of the UNECE established a Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports with the mandate to elaborate concrete recommendations for governments on how to enhance benefits from the rapidly growing intermodal trade. The conference in Piraeus will be a platform for dialogue amongst stakeholders.

Expected Results

- Increased awareness of why well developed, efficient and seamless connections between seaports and their hinterland are essential to international trade
- Shared results of recent research and best practices
- Important object lessons for UNECE emerging market economies
- Substantive input to the work of the UNECE Group of Experts on Seaports and Hinterland Connections

Participants

United Nations Organizations, Inter-governmental institutions, Shipping lines and International freight forwarders, Universities, Road and Rail organizations

Registration

A registration form must be filled in for each member of your delegation. Registration forms can be downloaded here: http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2008/wp5/GE1_SPC_RegistrationForm.doc Please send it by fax or e-mail to UNECE (fax: +41 22 917 0039, or via e-mail: caroline.jeunet@unece.org) and to the Greek Ministry of Mercantile Marine, The Aegean and Island Policy (fax +30 210 4146 315, or via e-mail: vpadelopoulou@yen.gr)

Languages and Interpretation Services

The Conference will be conducted in English, Russian and Greek

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Wednesday 17 September 2008

08.00 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 10.30	Official Opening
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 - 12.30	Seaports Best Practices: The interface between maritime and inland transport Following presentations by high-level government experts, conference participants will be invited to ask questions and express their views on key aspects of seaports that are needed for efficient intermodal transport, as well as the relevance of seaports in transport infrastructure planning and development of national, regional and global transport systems.
12.30 - 13.30	Press Conference
13.30 - 15.00	Lunch
15.00 - 18.00	Hinterland connections of seaports: Bottlenecks or seamless links with roads, railroads and inland waterways Following presentations by invited researchers, participants will be invited to ask questions and share their experiences concerning best practices and strategies in tackling bottlenecks in seaports, as well as those in connecting inland transport infrastructure networks.
16.30 - 17.00	Coffee Break
17.00 - 18.00	Questions and Comments
20.00 - 22.00	Official Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Mercantile Marine, The Aegean and Island Policy

Thursday 18 September 2008

09.00 - 11.00	Port operations and management: A key factor in supply chain management Governments, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and major users will exchange views and discuss the importance of effective functioning and operations of various seaport services and their role in ensuring efficient and smooth transport supply chain operations.
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 - 13.00	Port operations and management: A key factor in supply chain management (continued)
13.00 - 15.00	Lunch
15.00 - 17.00	Challenges to seaports development in the globalized world Following presentations by invited international organizations, governments, researchers and industry representatives will discuss challenges to the development of seaports and their hinterland connections, and the need for timely action and intensive international collaboration, aimed at providing a favourable legal and institutional framework to face these issues in the future.
17.00 - 17.30	Coffee Break
17.30 - 18.00	Conclusions and recommendations

Friday 19 September 2008

10.00 - 12.00	Technical Visit of the Port of Piraeus
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