



## The UNECE conference in Piraeus and post-conference activities



Meeting of the Expert Group on  
Hinterland Connections of Seaports,  
28 October 2008

Jaromir Cekota  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Transport Division, UNECE

# UNECE Conference in Piraeus

- Focus on hinterland connections of seaports
- Hosted by the Greek government
- Over 200 participants (senior officials, leading researchers, representatives of business and labour, international organizations)
- Over 40 presentations and 3 background papers available to the public
- [http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5\\_ge1\\_SPC.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge1_SPC.html)

# Key messages

- Hinterland connections the weakest link in supply chains
- Hinterland connections, trade facilitation & environmental assessment increasingly prominent in port development projects
- No general approach to port-hinterland issues at national level
- Port reform processes increasingly important in Europe and China

## Key messages, cont'd

- Balance between competitive markets and public intervention for integration
- Importance of 'joined up thinking' involving all players – public and private sector
- Need for whole supply chain approach, rather than mode-specific consideration
- Integration of ports, transport corridors and inland terminals (esp. role of port authorities)

# Key considerations

- Broader context, e.g.:
  - Consistency with other UN objectives (e.g. Millennium Development Goals)
  - Interactions with existing projects, such as TEM, TER and EATL
- Balance of emphasis on infrastructure and other factors, e.g.:
  - Greater operating efficiencies
  - Reduced bureaucracy
  - Better regulation
  - Greater international cooperation
  - Adoption of new technologies

# The follow-up

- Conference results to feed into recommendations of the Expert Group
- TBD by Dr Woodburn in cooperation with experts
- Secretariat to prepare a conference report
- And facilitate the publication of conference proceedings

# Questionnaire

- Questionnaire on hinterland connections of seaports  
[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5\\_ge1\\_Questionnaire.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_ge1_Questionnaire.html)
- Distributed to 70 port authorities, transport firms and organizations, and governments in July 2008
- So far 23 responses (13 from TR)
- Answers only from 9 countries (BE, BG, CH, DE, ES, LT, LV, TR, UK)

# Deadlines

- Additional responses (up to end of 2008)
- Next meeting of the Expert Group (Geneva, 23 January 2009)
- Final report (30 June 2009)
- To be approved by WP on Transport Trends and Economics (Geneva, 8-9 September 2009) and ITC (Geneva, February 2010)