



Directorate-General  
for Energy  
and Transport

# The European Commission's freight transport activities

## Update to the UN ECE working party 24, 17-18 March 2008



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# Freight Logistics Action Plan

- Adopted 18 October 2007 as part of a freight transport package
  - Logistics Action Plan
  - Freight-oriented rail network
  - Port policy
  - Staff papers on Motorways of the Sea and European Maritime Space without Barriers
- Four “themes”
  - Innovation
  - Quality
  - Simplification
  - Green transport

# eFreight

- Move from project-specific recommendations to a generally valid basis for implementation.
  - High number of projects that have addressed issue, different speeds of development between modes.
  - Vested interests of big logistics players and of modes with well-developed systems,
  - Reservation among smaller enterprises (cost implications)
- Pivotal role of Freightwise project
- In the future: FreightVision

# Bottleneck exercise

- Last week third set of meetings of so-called focal groups.
- Much enthusiasm, still on learning curve.
- Different levels of progress in regulatory, operational, infrastructure-related bottlenecks.
  - Few quick fixes, longer-term approach to legislation and financing.
- Synergies with TEN-T corridor activities and with clustering debate in chemical industry.

# Benchmarking

- R&D project BeLogic
  - Expected to start in summer 2008
- On-going work of Germanische Lloyd into benchmarking of terminals.
- Study into statistics and benchmarking
  - Signed end-2007, to be completed by late 2008
  - Focus: economic importance of logistics for select sectors, economic and service-quality performance of limited number of transport corridors.
- Need to establish discussion platform with industry.

# Liability and transport documents

- Conclusion of UNCITRAL WG on new convention
  - Await Commission and GA adoption, see progress of ratification process
  - Work on „small“ solution for EU?
- Study into transport document harmonisation and automation to be launched in the course of this year.

# Vehicle weights and dimensions

- Study launched end 2007, results required by summer 2008.
- To analyse
  - Road safety — the effect of bigger vehicle combinations in traffic;
  - Energy efficiency and CO2 emissions per tonne-km and per veh.km, with projections for the EU as a whole;
  - Noxious emissions (effect on PM and NOx levels) and the effect on statutory emission levels;
  - Effect on road infrastructure, bridges, parking, loading, transportation;
  - Effect on other intermodal transport operations;
  - Effect on meeting current and future freight transport demand.

# Vehicle weights and dimensions

- Workshop of 4<sup>th</sup> March
  - ~ 100 participants, transport operators, shippers, truck manufacturers, environmentalists, national representatives
  - Presentations from supporters and opponents of bigger and/or heavier trucks.
  - Debate still concentrated on modular concept (i.e. 25m-long trucks). Some voices calling for more moderate size and weight increases (20m, 44 or 48 tonnes).
  - Accommodation of 45ft (maritime) container.

# Vehicle weights and dimensions

- Next steps
  - Questionnaire, to prepare for interim report in April (results of team's initial analysis and opinions and data provided by around 50 stakeholders)
  - Final workshop on 10 July 2008.
- Commission's position:
  - Collect all relevant facts
  - Not committed to revision of Directive 96/53
  - Concerned also about lack of harmonisation, insufficiency of enforcement.

# Green corridors

- Two actions foreseen in LAP:
  - Define green corridors by end 2008;
  - Launch R&D project to explore interest and potential in green corridors.
- See also work on green corridors undertaken by ERA-Net.
- Call for proposals under 7<sup>th</sup> R&D Framework Programme in the field of transport
  - Deadline early May, evaluation June, project(s) launch end 2008, early 2009.

# Green corridors

- Purpose of R&D action:
  - Create partnerships around corridors, base-line today's (environmental) performance, propose roll-out for new technologies or organisational practices.
  - Emphasis on work leading to specific (corridor-related) recommendations, not general proposals.
  - Ideally, provide blueprints for larger scale roll-out projects 2010.

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