



## UNECE Conference 17-18 September 2008, Piraeus, Greece



**Introduction to the session on hinterland connections of seaports, 17 September, 15:00 – 18:00**

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# The UNECE context

- UNECE Transport Division  
<http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>
- Focus: international inland transport
- Expert Group on Hinterland Connections of Seaports formed in April 2008
- Provided a steering committee for this conference
- Report of the Expert Group for UNECE governments expected in September 2009

# Port-hinterland dynamics

- Complex evolution of containerized trade
- Cannot be analyzed well with traditional model of perfectly competitive resource allocation
- Ports *and* hinterland transport face both physical and non-physical obstacles
- Increasingly integrated intermodal freight transport flows
- A number of players with different degrees of market (price-setting) power

# Issues to be addressed

- Sustainability vs. efficiency
- Competition – how imperfect?
- Strategic infrastructure planning – how important?
- Border-crossing and transit obstacles – how relevant?
- Major shifts in East and West?

# Focus of this session

- Describe main trends
- Identify key problems
- Outline possible solutions
- Need for an international approach?
- New institutions or better use of what exists?

# Speakers

- Dr. Peter W. DE LANGEN (Erasmus University Rotterdam and Port of Rotterdam)
- Mr. Tengfei WANG (UNESCAP, Bangkok)
- Prof. Wlodzimierz RYDZKOWSKI (Gdansk University)
- Prof. Eddy VAN DE VOORDE (University of Antwerp)
- Prof. Dimitrios TSAMBOULAS (National Technical University of Athens)
- Dr. Allan WOODBURN (University of Westminster)
- Prof. Hercules HARALAMBIDES (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- Mr. Uwe BAKOSCH (DB Schenker, Berlin)
- Mr. Ad J. TOET (Royal Dutch Transport Association, The Hague)