



UNECE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Note for the Press ECE/TRANS/03/N03
Geneva, 18 July 2003

Central Eastern European countries debate on the development of the Freight Villages concept during a Seminar in Verona

A Seminar on the Promotion of the Freight Village concept in the EU, in acceding countries and other Central and Eastern European countries, was held on 19-20 June 2003 in Verona, Italy. The Seminar was organized jointly by the UNECE-sponsored Trans-European Railway (TER) Project, Europlatforms, Eurochambres and Consorzio ZAI Interporto Quadrante Europa.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Ministries of Transport or Foreign Trade and railway companies from 11 TER member countries as well as international organizations and combined transport operators, such as the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Eurochambres), European Network of Freight Villages (Europlatforms), Association of Centres of Transport of Spain, CEMAT. The University of Verona was also associated to this Seminar.

The participants exchanged views on issues linked to the development of Freight Villages and their main components, intermodal terminals, in Central and Eastern European Countries. They received information about the latest developments of Freight Villages in Italy and Spain both from the point of view of legislation required for public support as well as the practical implementation of measures for an advanced system of efficient management of sustainable freight flows.

They reviewed, in particular, the advantages of creating freight villages such as the positive impact they have for the neighbouring area and population. A visit to the Freight Village Quadrante Europa in Verona illustrated the successful development of this terminal in the last 30 years.

.../

The Seminar came to the following conclusions:

- Freight Villages and their components, intermodal terminals, are indispensable infrastructure fabrics for a profitable combined transport system.
- Freight Villages as multi-firm commercial estates concentrating transport activities from different operators and users offer an ideal framework to decrease the overall transport costs and offer a higher quality of transport services.
- To start or develop efficient Freight Villages, adequate legislation based on the successful experience of other countries in this field is a must for all Central and Eastern European Countries. The TER initiative in this respect will be continued in the future offering the framework for an efficient exchange of views among all interested partners in this field.
- Establishment and development of freight villages will have a positive impact on the overall economic development of the region where they are set up and on the living conditions of the community.
- The railways should play a more active role in the competitive transport market because bi- or multimodal cooperation among railways contributes to more efficient activity in this sector with better results and higher profits.
- The Italian experience in developing Freight Villages should continue to be shared within UNECE-TER to the advantage of all those involved in this field.

For additional information please contact:

Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director, or
Mr. Michalis P. Adamantiadis, Regional Adviser
UNECE Transport Division
Palais des Nations
CH – 1211 Geneva 10

Tel: +41(0)22 917 24 01, 917 11 28

Fax: +41(0)22 917 00 39

E-mail: Jose.Capel.Ferrer@unece.org
Michalis.Adamantiadis@unece.org

Web site: <http://unece.org/trans> (Under TER heading)