

**UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Project Workshop
On Modern railway technology and Rolling Stock
in St. Gallen, Switzerland**

A UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Project Workshop on modern railway technology and rolling stock was jointly organised with SwissRail and the Canton of St. Gallen from 15 to 17 June 2005, in St. Gallen.

The Workshop offered the participants the possibility to get acquainted with new management, planning and design as coordinated services offered by one provider, train power supplies in tunnels, modern maintenance and test equipment, locomotives for cross-border traffic, electronic ticketing system as well as new type of coaches manufactured for suburban and intercity trains.

Following a broad exchange of views between the participants and the representatives of the companies attending the workshop the following conclusions could be outlined:

The upgrading of the railway infrastructure and the purchase of new rolling stock to European standards in Central and Eastern European countries in order to ensure profitable railway services is an on going process. For this purpose new financial resources from public funds or with international assistance should be identified.

However, it was recognised that having an upgraded network is not enough for ensuring its efficiency and ensure an offer for railway services of higher quality. The introduction of new rolling stock should accompany the process of modernisation of infrastructure in order to ensure the overall efficiency of the railway operators.

The Minister of Economic Affairs of the Canton St. Gallen, receiving the participants to the workshop expressed his readiness to support the idea of Switzerland's joining TER Project for a stable and regular cooperation with Central and Eastern European countries.

The participants to the Seminar highly appreciated the transfer of know-how and technical information, the demonstration and quality of the Swiss rolling stock.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 10 TER member countries, more than 20 manufacturers of rolling stock and railway equipment as well as authorities of Canton St. Gallen.