

Budapest 3 December 2001

Press release

UNECE Trans-European Railway Project – TER Seminar on International Rail freight

**Learning from experience of Trans European Freight Freeways (TERFFs)  
and prospects for Trans-European Rail Freight Network (TERFN)**

On 28-29 November 2001 UNECE-TER organised a Seminar on “International rail freight - Learning from the experience from Trans European Freight Freeways (TERFFs) and prospects for Rail Freight Network (TERFN)” was organised in Salzburg (Austria).

Its objective was to assess the possibilities of the extension of Trans European Rail Freight Freeways (TERFFs) from the European Union countries to Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC).

The meeting offered an overview of the developments taking place in the railway sector in the TER countries, assess the availabilities and interest of the countries to increase the share of this sector in the international freight traffic, to provide customers with additional services and thus increase the efficiency of the railways in general.

After a broad exchange of information and extensive discussions, it was noted that TERFFs concept, as an interim measure in recognition of the complex institutional and financial position of the railways in CEEC is valid.

Further developments of TERFFs in CEEC depends on setting up a legal platform for Infrastructure Managers (IM) co-operation within One Stop Shop (OSS) concept (new legislation framework). It was appreciated that the role of government, to provide this platform is a precondition.

Application of this concept (TERFFs) by the railways of CEEC may enable them to increase their contribution to the international railway traffic as well as to obtain additional income.

Need for clear support for initiatives to improve international rail freight was recognised and approaches to Ministries at a higher level were considered very useful. Governments retain still considerable influence over railway policy and management and their positive attitude and direction in some cases, is a prerequisite for action.

The Seminar was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Transport and railway companies from 10 countries, UNECE-TER and Ove Arup Consultancy group.

---