



Dear Colleagues, Dear Executives,

The Ministry of Transport of Bulgaria welcomes the conception, and declares its support to organizing an International Conference on Freight Transport Logistics Development in Europe. Europe, furthermore South - East Europe, needs effective, integrated solutions on freight transport, favouring the environment and facilitating consumers. Measures and actions, which make railway, maritime transport and inland waterways more attractive and competitive in the context of co-modality, are essential. Integrating these green modes of transport into effective logistics chains is of main importance in regard to the economic efficiency and long-term development of transport. As a result of recognizing the necessity for specific measures in restricting the constant growth of road freight transport, the European Commission presented a series of initiatives directed toward ensuring effective and reliable freight transport. The measures include: achieving a balance between different modes of freight transport (co modality concept); facilitate establishment of freight logistics chains (green logistics); simplifying the administrative procedures (internet for cargo); and improving the quality in the freight logistics. I consider the opportunity for Bulgaria to host the European Freight Transport Logistics Conference and Marco Polo Programme Meeting, where a prominent speakers are invited to share their viewpoints – either decision makers in the freight transport logistics from European and national institutions, or executives of the transport business and professional organizations, as very important to SEE countries. The Conference would enable a wider-range of managers to become familiar with the latest trends in freight transport logistics, while the freight transport business will be able to identify more clearly its role in the overall logistical process and assume its commitments regarding the implementation of the European and national policy in the area of freight transport logistics.

Welcome at European Freight Transport Logistics Conference, Sofia 2008.

**GENERAL TRANSPORT MASTER PLAN OF BULGARIA** *NEW*

The General Transport Master Plan will provide support to the Bulgarian administration as an instrument for continuous development of transport sector decisions and investment planning, while pursuing the following specific goals: Ensure the planning of a high-quality infrastructure; Include all modes of transport; Encourage the operational harmonization (co modality) and intermodality; Allow the optimal usage of existing infrastructure capacity; Contribute to the implementation of transport activities conformable to the environmental requirements; Be feasible on macro-economic level etc...

**BULGARIA: MODERNIZATION CONTINUOUS**

**Railway infrastructure projects**

The main priorities of the strategy for development of the national railways transport system remains the rehabilitation and modernization of the railway infrastructure which shall contribute to the quality improvement of offered services. This development includes the interconnection and interoperability of national railway networks as well as access to European intermodal rail networks. The restructuring of the railway transport system has been accomplished in compliance with the ERTMS standards. The introduction and applying of the EU technical standards in the railway infrastructure sector has required and still requires massive investments – 1 milliard and 500 million euro for main railway projects. Construction of Danube bridge Vidin – Kalafat has already started.

ERTMS development



**Intermodal infrastructure projects**

Bulgaria with its favorable geographical situation may attract additional international traffic through improvement of combined transport and block trains networks. Intermodal system infrastructure basically consists in railways linkages between major nodes for freight transport. The infrastructure modernization includes the following: technical improvement of the railways and railway facilities as a part of the Trans-European Transport network; ensuring the necessary gauge clearance for the intermodal and combined freight transport. Creating of intermodal terminals was started. There are planned two container terminals in sea ports Varna and Burgas - every with capacity of 500 000 TEU, also in port Varna west – 150 000 TEU, two inland ports with multifunctional terminals in Lom and Rousse - every with capacity of 100 000 TEU. Several intermodal terminals/freight villages are in process of building in Sofia (more than 3), Plovdiv, Bourgas.

Bourgas Port Terminals development



**Logistics infrastructure projects**

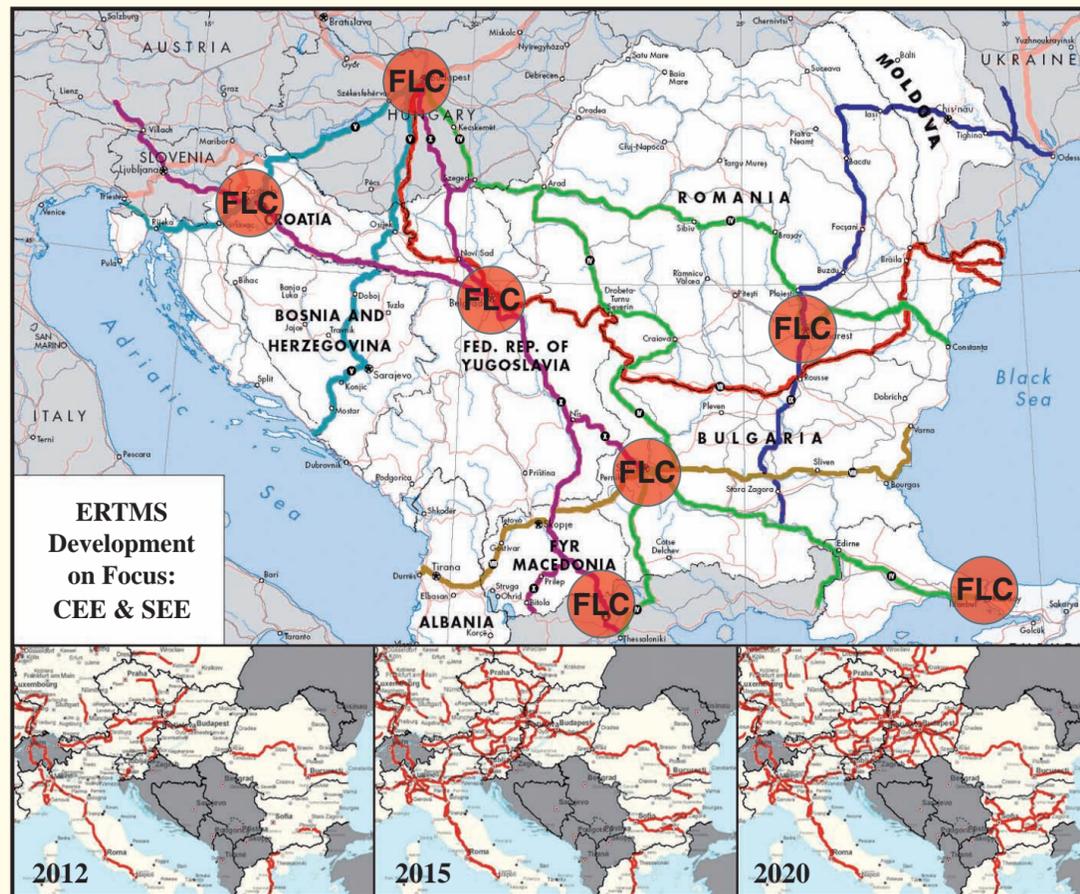
International and Bulgarian companies establish freight logistics centers and industrial zones with full range of services, and in this way improve the freight logistics infrastructure of Bulgaria. New logistics zones (with area about a million sq. m.) are forming around Sofia. (for example Airport Logistics City Sofia), big logistics and industrial zones near Plovdiv, (as Fresh logic), Bourgas, Varna ... The concentration of LDCs necessitates quick establishment of freight intermodal terminals and freight villages network.

Cargo Center GRAZ - Model for SEE



**Balkans Freight Move Improvement**  
More Coordination, More Cooperation, More Competition

From motorways to railways. From railways to waterways. Green Freight transport. Green Logistics  
From waterways to railways. From railways to motorways. Green Freight transport. Green Logistics



Let's make together the Balkans better area for freight transport logistics

Who should attend:

Shippers, Logistics Managers, Freight Forwarders, Economic Operators Sea and Inland Port Operators, Terminal Operators, Intermodal Operators, Shipowners, Shipbrokers, Liner Agents, Ocean and Shortsea Carriers, Port and Railway Authorities, Government Experts, Regional Authorities Project Managers, Consultants, Financiers, Banks, NGO, Cargo Handling Equipment Manufacturers, ICT Suppliers, Freight Villages, Logistics Centers, Free Zones, Industrial Parks, etc.



More information and registration:

Intermodal, Shortsea and Inland Waterway Promotion Association, BG NGO  
9000 Varna, Bulgaria, P.O.Box 2; tel/fax: + 359 52 60 10 11; e-mail: balkanintermodal@yahoo.com

**BALKANS CO MODALITY**  
International Conference 2008 for Freight Transport Logistics Development in S E E

**European Freight Transport Agenda**  
The Balkans Dimension. Time to Action

**November**  
10 – 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 Sofia  
Conference center ★★★★★  
“Kempinski Hotel Zografski”

On Focus:  
Railway Freight Logistics  
Maritime Freight Logistics  
Freight Transport Logistics  
Marco Polo II Programme  
SEE Projects

With the support of:

Ministry of Transport  
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Bulgarian State Railways, BDZ Cargo



Balkans Co modality Conference 2008 support



Conference concept, programme and organizing: Intermodal & Shortsea Promotion Centre Bulgaria

