



INTERNATIONAL EXPERT CONFERENCE ON COMBINED CARGO TRANSPORT HELD IN ZAGREB

29 May 2018

On 29 May 2018, International Expert Conference on Combined Cargo Transport took place in Zagreb. The Conference was organized by the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure on the occasion of the Republic of Croatia's this year's presidency over the Central European Initiative.

The Conference was opened by **Dr. Sc. Nikolina Brnjac, State Secretary in the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure**. In her welcome address, she stressed the importance of development of combined cargo transport not only for the Republic of Croatia, but for all countries of the Central European Initiative (CEI) as well.

Then followed the welcome address by **Elisabette Dovier, representative of the CEI Secretariat**, in which she first reminded of the historical background and the CEI key objective of supporting transition countries in the process of their integration with the European Union.

These opening addresses were followed by presentations held by representatives of international institutions and CEI Member States, highlighting the problems faced by stakeholder in the combined transport market. In this view, particular emphasis was placed on adoption of the new Combined Transport Directive as an attempt to solve the problems in combined cargo transport.

A number of presentations dealt with digitalization of transport documents, which would contribute to faster and simplified cargo flow, recent innovations and technologies, options, challenges, but also risks encountered by development of intermodal transport in the Republic of Croatia, the western Balkan Region and wider.

Finally, the conference was aimed at exchange of know-how and experiences between the CEI countries, international organizations and other stakeholders in intermodal transport in order to promote development of combined cargo transport in Europe and provide an opportunity for future cooperation in the sector.

Let us remind that combined cargo transport corrects the imbalance between different transport modes, promotes environment-friendlier modes of transport, facilitates and promotes mobility of goods by supporting productivity growth and creating conditions for balanced regional development.

While most of goods transport is carried out by road, the total share of railway, maritime and inland waterway transport of goods in Croatia and in most central-European countries remains low. This ratio has a negative impact not only on environment, but on creation of external costs resulting from congestion and accidents.

The conference was attended by the representatives of CEI member states: Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia, the representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Zagreb, The Embassy of the Czech Republic in Zagreb, the Embassy of the Republic of Italy in

Croatia, the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Zagreb, the Embassy of Hungary in Croatia and the representative of EC Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), UN Economic Committee for Europe (UN/ECE), South-Eastern Europe Traffic Observatory (SEETO), International Union of Companies in Road and Rail Transport (UIRR), the Intermodal Transport and Logistics Community of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, the Danube Commission, the International Sava Basin Commission, relevant state authorities, academic community, port authorities and ports, transport organizers, road and railway transport operators and shipping companies.

