



PORTUGAL 2007



Ministerial Conference on

Motorways of the Sea and Logistics Lisbon, 23 October 2007

Conference Conclusions

- Freight transport logistics is – apart from being a highly competitive economic sector in its own right - one of the drivers of the European competitiveness. Advanced transport logistics solutions are needed to absorb the consequence of globalisation: increasing volumes of freight transportation.
- The Conference of Ministers welcomes the integrated approach that the Commission is taking to encourage an efficient and sustainable freight contribution to European transport policy delivery. The package of initiatives¹ put forward in the EU's freight transport agenda is an important step that will generate much interest and action.
- The Conference welcomes the publication of The Freight Logistics Action Plan that brings together a range of short to medium-term initiatives, including the proposed introduction of Green Corridors for freight in Europe.
- The Conference of Ministers welcomes the European Port Policy Communication. Ports are indeed key points of modal transfer and are vital in the development of freight logistics, Short Sea Shipping and Motorways of the Sea in the European Union. The quality and efficiency of ports services, infrastructure and hinterland connections are essential for the

smooth and effective operation of logistic transport chains that use the maritime transport mode.

- Motorways of the Sea are needed as part of a concerted effort in the European Union to absorb a significant part of the expected increase in road freight traffic, improve the accessibility of peripheral and island regions and states and reduce road congestion. The concept is underscored by the Conclusions of the Ministerial Conference on the Motorways of the Sea that took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in January 2006 and which called upon all actors to contribute to the preparation of Motorways of the Sea.
- The Conference of Ministers welcomes the progress made by public and private actors in the preparation of Motorways of the Sea, through the creation of regional Motorways of the Sea task forces, the organization of joint calls for proposals for Motorways of the Sea projects and the preparation of Motorways of the Sea project proposals. The Conference of Ministers encourages all actors to pursue this preparatory work and also welcomes initiatives taken by the private sector, inter alia, in the Marco Polo II programme.
- The Conference of Ministers welcomes the recent appointment of the European Coordinator for Motorways of the Sea.
- Acknowledging that the success of Motorways of the Sea is intrinsically linked to procedural harmonisation and simplification, the Conference of Ministers calls for further simplification and streamlining of procedures to reduce significantly the administrative burden on Short Sea Shipping, as highlighted in the Commission document on the European maritime transport space without barriers.
- Recognising the challenge of changing attitudes towards the use of integrated intermodal transport solutions, the Conference of Ministers re-iterates the importance of appropriate support to the Short Sea Shipping promotion centres and to the extension of their activities where appropriate, to cover the promotion of intermodality and Motorways of the Sea.
- It is desirable to organise in 2009 another event at Ministerial level in order to evaluate the progress made with the EU's freight transport agenda and with the implementation of Motorways of the Sea.

¹ Composed of Communications on the freight transport logistics action plan, freight-oriented rail network, European port policy and the Commission staff working documents on the European maritime space without barriers and on Motorways of the Sea