

Paris, 12 October - First workshop for the freight project: DIOMIS

DIOMIS (Developing Infrastructure use and Operating Models for Intermodal Shift) is the freight study which investigates how more efficient management, operating and working procedures may help towards de-saturation of the rail network, de-saturation of intermodal terminals and modal shift in favour of rail.

The project, which is divided into several topical modules, was launched in January 2006 and will span over a two year period.

In his opening address, Mr Peetermans, Project Manager, reminded that DIOMIS is the follow up of the joint UIC /UIRR capacity study published in 2004 which showed that even if all the scheduled infrastructure investments are carried out by 2015, there will still be severe saturation on the network impeding the absorption of the forecast growth for combined transport rail services.

The first module to be completed deals with how capacity utilisation can be optimised in international combined transport trains.

The results of the module were presented to an audience of commercial and operational key players in the combined transport market through a lively debate between forwarders, operators and railway undertakings.

Capacity management and operational concepts such as hubs, gateways and shuttle trains etc. were discussed with an audience of over 40 people through case studies presented by Italcontainer, Interferryboats, Ambrogio and Kombiverkehr.

The lessons to be learned from these concrete business examples together with the findings from the consultants (KombiConsult and Kessel+Partner) have been consigned into a report in which the applicability, transferability and the impact on network capacity of all the measures encountered have been analysed and described. This of course doesn't preclude national and supranational authorities from investing in network improvements.

As highlighted by Mr Sellnick, UIC Director Railway Undertakings, DIOMIS is one of the key freight projects of the UIC and its importance for the future of the business is undeniable.

The report and workshop material will soon available from the Diomis website (<http://uic.asso.fr/diomis>).