



## EWTCA Council meeting

The end of the year is the time for summing up achievements and works done. A man or an organization must have a starting point to take off towards the implementation of the strategic programme. This old and ageless truth was acknowledged by the members and participants of East-West Transport Corridor Association (EWTCA) Council who met in Vilnius.

**THE EWTCA 1ST YEAR ACTIVITY** Report was delivered by the President of the Association Dr Algirdas Sakalys, which summed up the results, reviewed the organisational activities, and set the short-term objectives and tasks. The business-oriented meeting underlined the necessity of implementation of the immediate plans and projects, discussed the most important international transport development and cooperation problems.

**General Director** of Lithuanian Railway Dr. Stasys Dailydka underlined, that railway is one of the most environment-friendly transport modes. Several examples of the best practices that could be applied developing Green East-West Transport Corridor using railway transport follow. One example – shuttle train Viking which during the nine months of this year have transported a record-high volume of containers– 43.6 thous. TEU. The success of the Viking Project indicates that horizontal partnership of business companies, universities and political administrations is very beneficial. Container train Saulė is another great example. Train was launched in November, 2011, and took the route covering Lithuania, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan and China. The project is strongly supported by the Governments of Lithuania and Kazakhstan as well as EWTCA partners. Moreover, there are plans to launch the permanent route of container train Merkurijus between Lithuania, Belarus and Russia (Moscow).

**MAYOR OF KARLSHAMN** city, Vice President of EWTCA Sven-Ake Svensson rejoiced, that Lithuanian partners are very active in developing the EWTC Association, "An EU project cannot make the corridor operational; it is only by securing contacts between stakeholders and making those contacts stronger, that we will see a real corridor". "We need to show our stakeholders that Association is an actual and serious organization aiming at removing administrative bottlenecks along the corridor as well as offering joint business concepts of sustainable operations" – he said. Information Broker System, which might be applied to the Association activities, could function as the factor fostering the trustworthiness of the partners.

Using this instrument, we could demonstrate that due to the tight relations between the associated partners we have actually established the net of the Corridor which is capable of transporting cargo between Baltic Sea region and Asian countries.

**IN THE DISCUSSIONS** on the Activity Report, presented by Dr. Algirdas Šakalys, Dr. N. Wagener, Co-ordinator, LogistikNetz Berlin-Brandenburg e.V., pointed out that the Association should direct its activity towards the transport hubs and hub accessibility facilitation development. Improved accessibility might create favourable conditions with Rail Baltica link (Berlin – Warsaw – Kaunas). Considering this, the link between the EWTC and Rail Baltica would be very important. This is very relevant for the German industry. These issues concerning Rail Baltica are to be discussed in Macklenburg (Germany) in June, 2012; the link of the EWTCA and Rail Baltica might be considered there as well. Mr. Wagener also expressed the opportunities to promote the EWTCA in Germany and strengthen the cooperation with associated transport structures in Berlin- Brandenburg region.

**CHANCELLOR OF PRESIDENT**, JSC Plaske, V.Zubkov expressed the importance of common future vision of the Association. Meanwhile, the Association mostly relies on railway operators and forwarders, though the road and inland water sectors should be more actively involved into the activities of the Association.

**IT HAS BECOME A** nice tradition to admit new members during every meeting of the Association. During this Council meeting the Head of the non-profit organization Kaliningrad Institute of Regional Space Planning, Development and International Relations V. Kosovskij submitted the application for the EWTCA membership. The Institute functions as the regional strategic research center engaged into promotion of the external relations with the developing European regions.



EWTCA Council Meeting

**EWTCA draft action plan 2012 was presented during the meeting.** It seeks for an establishment of EWTCA thematic working groups, that should identify main problems and bottlenecks in functioning of the EWTC, propose measures to avoid and prevent obstacles in the EWTC functioning and introduce actual measures into the EWTCA activities.

**IT SEEKS FOR** an establishment of EWTCA thematic working groups, that should identify main problems and bottlenecks in functioning of the EWTC, propose measures to avoid and prevent obstacles in the EWTC functioning and introduce actual measures into the EWTCA activities. One of the most important identified objectives is a deeper cooperation between EWTCA members, stakeholders along the EWTC. **FOR THIS PURPOSE**, the budget calculation of Association for 2012 will have to be prepared; EWTCA Forums in China and in Germany will have to be planned. The quarterly EWTCA newsletter, like EWTCA web portal and organization of Council meetings will help to facilitate coordination and information exchange between partners, broadening usage by EWTCA members. To promote EWTC and EWTCA Association, it is planned to prepare informational brochure about EWTCA members, to present EWTCA to members of the European Parliament (in cooperation with EIA, June 2012) as well as to present EWTCA in the European Commission Eastern Partnership Transport 2nd Panel (2012), and to provide information about EWTCA activities and opportunities through mass media.

EWTCA expansion will focus on Russia, Belarus, the states of TRACECA network and Turkey. It is intended to collaborate with chambers of commerce, industrial federations and individual companies through EWTCA members in EWTC countries in order to deepen EWTCA relations with shippers. Secretary of EWTCA Albertas Arūna, noticed that the Action Plan envisages the means towards further promotion of the EWTCA activity, inner structural developments, improvements of communication between partners, the EWTCA enlargement with associated members, ways to attract financial support. Consequently, when the Action Plan within EWTC II framework of the Corridor development is prepared, the next step should be the implementation of the more concrete means of business organization along the Corridor. **EWTCII** project manager Mathias Roos, delivered a comment concerning the aims, structure and the expected results of the EWTC II project, mainly focusing on the Green transport corridor organization manual and the structure of Information Broker System. Assistance Coordinator for Customs of the republic of Belarus and Ukraine V. Ališauskas, presented the system of monitoring using the e-Seals for the tracing and arrival control of means of transport as the successful example of Broker Information System that might be applied to the EWTC activity in the future.

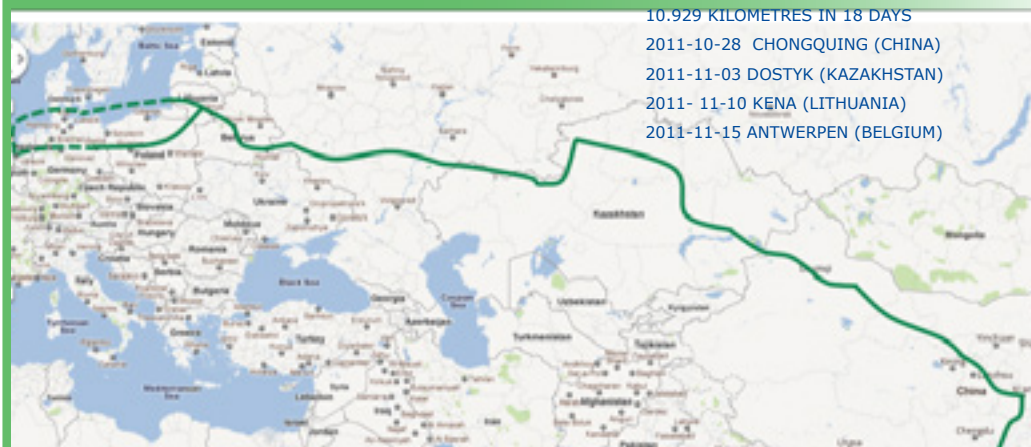
## The role of the EWTC Association in new European Eastern Neighbourhood policy

**PRESIDENT** of the EWTC Association Algirdas Šakalys delivered a presentation "Joining efforts towards a better integrated transport link: Baltic Sea Region – Black Sea Region" during the international conference "Green Corridors – Multimodal Sustainable Transport System" held in Szczecin, Poland, on 22nd of September, 2011. The conference was organized under the Polish European Union Presidency and attracted around 150 participants representing transport business sector, research institutions, and administrative structures from Greece, Spain, Italy, Poland, Lithuania, Norway and

Sweden, as well as high officials from European Commission and European Parliament members.

**THE MAIN GOAL** of this presentation was to demonstrate the East West Transport Corridor Association as an innovative instrument for the development of green intermodal international transport corridors. Together the presentation aimed at showing the EWTC Association as an effective institution contributing to the implementation of the newest EU transport policy in EU Eastern neighbourhood countries. Considering the fact that there is no common agreement on the definition and main characteristics of green transport corridor at the EU level yet, A. Sakalys submitted the proposals regarding the green transport corridor indicators that were elaborated by the Center of Intermodal Transport & Logistics of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.

### THE SUN - SAULĖ



## The EWTC Association as an instrument for regional an interregional cooperation (the OSCE Forum in Prague)

**THE CONCEPT** and the functions of the East-West Transport Corridor Association was presented during the 19th OSCE Economical and Environmental Forum in Prague, Czech Republic, 15th of September, 2011. The President of the EWTC Association Algirdas Šakalys delivered a special speech addressing the Association during the Debate Panel devoted to the Promotion of Sustainable Transport. The Association was presented as an innovative instrument for regional and inter-regional cooperation. **THE PRESENTATION** also focused on the EWTC Association capabilities to function as an effective organization for implementing the strategic aims of OSCE in transport sector.

It was agreed to continue the dialogue concerning the means and the ways through which the EWTC Association could contribute to realizing the UNECE aims during the informal meeting between A. Šakalys and the head of Transport division of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Mrs. Eva Molnar.

## Lithuanian– Belarus Forum for Transportation and Logistics 5th october 2011 "East-West Intermodal Transport Corridor: Where Are We? Where Do We Want To Be?"

**5 OCTOBER, 2011** the 5th Belarusian Transport and Logistics Forum took place in Minsk, it gathered over 80 companies from 10 countries: Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Czech Republic, Austria, Sweden and Germany. On the initiative of the Ministry of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Lithuania it was agreed to organize a Lithuanian – Belarusian Forum on Transport and Logistics within the frame of the 5th Belarusian Transport and logistics Forum. The work of the Lithuanian – Belarusian Forum was organized by the Lithuanian Business Confederation and East West Transport corridor Association.

**THE FORUM** was moderated by Tautginas Sankauskas (president, Lithuanian National Forwarders Association LINEKA) and Algirdas Šakalys (president, EWTC Association), Stasys Gudvalis (Deputy general manager, Lithuanian Railways), Mathias Roos (EWTCII Project manager). Many others actively contributed to the work of the Forum. The event was well attended by representatives of local transportation and forwarding companies, state officials.

**THE DISCUSSION** at the Forum covered such aspects as international tendencies in development of transportation and logistics systems, innovation instruments for development of international intermodal corridors, practice of implementing leading technologies and methods of organizing international cargo transportations, experience in operational activity in transport logistics (based on the example of the Viking project), areas for improving intermodal communications between economic regions of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea, assistance to international cargo transportations by approving simplified procedures for border crossing. The issues of importance concerning intermodal hubs (terminals), railroad transport in land connection of sea traffic centres by cargo flows, implementing concepts of making formalization of transportation documents faster were discussed.

**Grant agreement for EWTC Association technical assistance for implementation of EU S-BSR Priority Area 11 between the European Commission General Directorate of Regions and the Co-ordinator (Ministry of Transport and Communication Republic of Lithuania) was signed on December 2011**

**THE AIM IS TO** promote the development of green transport corridors across and outside BSR through a strong contact network (flagship area "Cooperate for smarter transport" of the ESBSR Priority area 11). Activities will be carried out by EWTC Association Secretariat, under supervision of the President and the Council of the Association.

**EWTC Association AIMS** at promoting green transport corridors concept in a way which would enact business to apply greener transport solutions as a part of their business strategy, that is, make green transport corridors economically, institutionally as well as environmentally sustainable.



#### CONTACTS:

EWTC ASSOCIATION SECRETARIAT  
PLYTINĖS ST. 27, LT-10105 VILNIUS, LITHUANIA  
PHONE: (+370 5) 274 4075,  
FAX: (+370 5) 237 0555,  
E-MAIL: SECRETARIAT@EWTCAASSOCIATION.NET

[WWW.EWTC2.EU](http://WWW.EWTC2.EU), [WWW.EWTCAASSOCIATION.NET](http://WWW.EWTCAASSOCIATION.NET)



Part-financed by the European Union  
(European Regional Development Fund  
and European Neighbourhood and  
Partnership Instrument)

