The EU Rail Freight Corridors – Part of the Asia-Europe Landbridge

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EU Rail Freight Corridors in 2015
Rail Freight Corridors connecting border crossings at the EU eastern border and Black Sea ports (I)

- **RFC 6 – Mediterranean Corridor**
  - ES, FR, IT, SI, HU, HR (†)
  - Ljubljana (†)/Rijeka (†)-Zagreb (†)-Budapest-Zahony (Hungarian-Ukrainian border)

- **RFC 7 – Orient/East-Med Corridor**
  - CZ, AT, SK, HU, RO, BG, EL, DE (*)
  - — București-Constanța
  - Bremerhaven (*)/Wilhelmshaven (*)/Rostock (*)/Hamburg (*)-Praha-Vienna/Bratislava-Budapest
  - — Vidin-Sofia-Burgas (*)-Svilengrad (*) (Bulgarian-Turkish border)/Promachonas-Thessaloniki- Athína-Patras (*)

Note: * And † indicate different deadlines for establishment
Rail Freight Corridors connecting border crossings at the EU eastern border and Black Sea ports (II)

- **RFC 8 – North Sea-Baltic Corridor**
  
  DE, NL, BE, PL, LT, LV (*), EE (*)
  
  Wilhelmshaven (+)/Bremerhaven/Hamburg (+)/ Amsterdam (+)/Rotterdam/Antwerpen-Aachen/Berlin-Warsaw-Terespol (Poland-Belarus border)/Kaunas-Riga (*)-Tallinn (*)

- **RFC 9 – Rhine-Danube Corridor**
  
  FR, DE, AT, SK, HU, RO, CZ
  
  Strasbourg-Mannheim-Frankfurt-Nürnberg-Wels
  
  Strasbourg-Stuttgart-München-Salzburg-Wels-Wien-Bratislava-Budapest-Arad-Brașov/Craiova-București-Constanța
  
  Čierna and Tisou (Slovak/ Ukrainian border)-Košice-Žilina-Horní Lideč-Praha-München/Nürnberg

Note: * And + indicate different deadlines for establishment
General objectives of the RFCs

- Reinforce cooperation among Rail Infrastructure Managers (and Member States)
- Improved capacity and harmonised standard on Rail Freight Corridors
- Provide rail freight services of good quality
- Improved customer orientation
RFC Governance structure

- **Executive Board**
  - Art. 8(1)
  - Define general objectives
  - Supervise / take measures as provided for in: Art.8(7), Art.9, Art.11, Art.14(1), Art.22

- **Management board**
  - Art. 8(2)
  - Take measures as provided for in: Art.8(5,7,8,9), Art.9, Art.10, Art.11, Art.12, Art.13(1), Art.14(2,6,9), Art.16(1), Art.17(1), Art.18, Art.19

- **Advisory group «Terminals»**
  - Art. 8(7)
  - constitute
  - sets up and consults

- **Advisory group «Railways»**
  - Art. 8(8)
  - constitute
  - sets up and consults

- **Terminal owners/managers**
  - constitute

- **Railway Undertakings**
  - constitute

- **One-Stop-Shop**
  - Art.13(1)
  - sets up

- **Regulatory Bodies**
  - National Safety Authorities
    - monitor (Art.20)

- **Applicants**
  - Non-railway Undertakings
    - consult (Art.10)
    - apply for capacity (Art.15)
  - Railway Undertakings
    - National Safety Authorities
      - consult (Art.10)
    - Railway Undertakings
      - constitute
      - appoint (Art.15)
  - Railway Undertakings
    - Art.15
Achievements - examples (I)

- Six RFCs operational since November 2013
- All nine RFCs operational from November 2015
- Setting up of Working Groups/Task Forces in the RFCs addressing specific issues raised by customers, such as:
  - Short-distance interoperability on border sections (language, vehicle authorisation, ...)
  - Customs handling in border stations
  - Rules for buffer wagons in Dangerous Goods transport
  - Terms & Conditions for use of infrastructure
  - ...
Achievements - examples (II)

- Growing offer and use of dedicated capacity for international freight trains (Pre-Arranged Train Paths & Reserve Capacity)
- Increased co-operation between different RFCs, aiming at harmonised solutions
- Studies for implementation of improved infrastructure standards, e.g.
  - 740m long trains
  - Improved loading gauges
- Extension of RFC 8 on request of Member States concerned
- Strong interest for additions to the Rail Freight Corridors, i.a. in South-Eastern Europe
Prospects for co-operation beyond the EU borders
Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit
(Riga, 21-22 May 2015)

(...)

In the area of Transport, the Summit participants stress the importance of making transport links between the EU and Eastern European partners safer and more efficient, and of supporting the improvement of logistics systems, including motorways of the sea, and fostering cooperation between rail corridors.

(...)
Reference to Rail Freight Corridors in the
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
on cooperation in technical, operational and commercial development of OSJD Rail Corridors

(signed on the OSJD Ministerial Meeting in June 2013)

"The Members of OSJD rail corridor No ____ (list of members), hereinafter referred to as Parties:

(...)

- Recognizing the need of close cooperation with the international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, including governance bodies of already existing rail corridors, in development of international transport corridors in EuroAsian area

Have agreed as follows:

(...)

- 7. To seek close cooperation and, where appropriate, coordination of activities with international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, including governance bodies of already existing rail corridors, with the aim to develop international rail corridors in EuroAsian area. " 
OSJD Corridors

Two OSJD Rail Corridors linking China and EU directly.
Exchange with parties along the Asia-Europe landbridge axis

EU-China High Level Transport Dialogue

- EU Rail Freight Corridors presented on the meeting of October 2014 in Brussels

Joint EU/OSJD seminars on RFCs

- Warsaw – September 2014
- Brussels – June 2015
Possible areas for cooperation (examples!)

- **Short-term**: Learning and exchange of experiences regarding governance of corridors

- **Medium-term**: Identify "quick wins" to improve rail freight services between EU RFCs and OSJD Corridors, e.g.
  - Enhancing and speeding up customs and train handling procedures in border stations
  - Better exchange of information for traffic management to improve punctuality/reliability of train services
  - Harmonised quality and performance monitoring across corridors

- **Long-term**: Development of joint long-term visions for rail traffic on the Europe-Asia axis; promoting compatibility of corridor development with regard to capacity and infrastructure standards
Information and contact to the Rail Freight Corridors:

http://www.rne.eu/rfc-corridors.html
Thank you for your attention!