

7. INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

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| Geographic Focus: | Republic of Armenia, Azerbaijan Republic, Georgia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan |
| Project Budget : | EURO 500,000 |
| Contractor: | BCEOM |
| Implementation timetable: | January 1996 through January 1997 |

Background

Intermodal transport is a key element contributing largely to the success of world trade development and the integration of Western economies. The use of intermodal systems should provide competitive transport in the TRACECA region, which is characterised by road and rail links of long distances, and sea crossings. Considering the emerging links with international transportation networks the need for an effective and integrated intermodal system penetrating the TRACECA region is evident.

Objectives

- To provide recommendations addressing problems in the organisation of intermodal transport within the TRACECA area and improving linkages to international routes
- To transfer intermodal technology know-how, especially in the area of ISO container handling and new transport techniques.
- To provide recommendations to rail and intermodal transport organisations in the area to concentrate modern facilities where most needed, and to equip them appropriately, including indications of typical costs

Key Issues

Co-operation between modal operators in the region has not extended to the establishment of “seamless” fast services which international clients expect elsewhere in the world. There was a fundamental need to introduce such concepts to regional operators.

Achievements

An intermodal freight transport group, covering all TRACECA countries was established and taken on a study tour to the EU to examine the organisation and operation of multimodal terminals from a technical and commercial viewpoint. It included analysis of rail, road and maritime modes and many facets of multimodal transport associated logistics-related services in Germany and France.

In the workshop that followed, intermodal case studies were presented to generate interest in possible solutions to local issues and to train staff in the appropriate technology. The seminar also allowed organisations from all TRACECA countries and from different transport modes to be brought together around the same table to discuss the Multimodal Transport Strategy proposed by the European team of experts.

To demonstrate the benefits of intermodal transport, case studies were produced providing focus for international traffic in TRACECA and to help train the staff involved in appropriate intermodal technology and commercialisation. The export of cotton was seen as a good potential traffic for intermodal operations using containers.

This project is seen as a first analysis of this vital transport technology. It is being followed by further TRACECA projects that will build on the experience gained. These include equipment supply, the Trans Caucasian Logistic Express, and Intermodal Services. In the subsequent Tariffications and timetables project, agreement has been reached to create a common regional intermodal operator, which is a very significant step towards institutional goals first established within this project.