

## Intermodal Day in Bulgaria

Yana Terminal is now working on having the Russian intermodal railcars reaching Sofia with changed boogies so that broad-gauge container-wagon service could be sold directly to Kazakhstan, Caucasus and Russia service in Sofia. The rail ferry connections have developed very well across the Black Sea and the Sofia Terminal is actively tapping into the TRACECA route with container platform connections to Kavkaz in Russia, Novorossiysk, Poti, Baku and Aktau.

Furthermore, the agreement reached with the Bulgarian Danube River Fleet (BRP) enables the complete shift from road traffic to a combination of inland and rail – 45'ers and sea containers from Budapest – via the river Port of Vidin Container Terminal (inland) to Sofia Yana (rail) and Thessloniki (rail) and back with extension to Constanta port and Galati in Romania. The service is running now from Constanta to Belgrade, carrying 4000 TEU per year, but BRP are constructing a container terminal in Vidin and linking it with in Yana-Sofia.

In line with its strategy, Sofia Yana Terminal set up the first specialized Intermodal business training seminar in Bulgaria. It took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May in Sofia as part of the "Annual Transport and Logistics Fair Sofia 2010". 70 visitors from the leading Bulgarian railway operators, intermodal-minded railway forwarders and hauliers attended the event, along with representatives from Slovenia, Turkey, Armenia, Romania, Belgium and Russia. The seminar was set up jointly by Sofia Yana Intermodal Terminal and Intercontainer – Interfrigo (ICF) Basel.

## First General Assembly of the port of Antwerp

The first General Assembly of the port of Antwerp, held on 22 June 2010, contributed more than 20 building blocks to consolidate Antwerp's position in the select number of European main ports. These include a Port Community System that will combine the various IT services with which Antwerp already leads the way in Europe. Connections with the hinterland will be strengthened with five new rail connections and new barge projects.

The General Assembly also received the first interim report on the "Total plan for a more competitive port." This initiative was launched at the end of 2009 by Antwerp Port Authority CEO Eddy Bruyninckx and Alfaport Antwerp chairman Roger Roels. Nearly 200 port specialists drawn from the public and private sectors have been working on the project since February. The plan is much more than a response to last year's recession: it will arm the port for the coming competitive fight. "The tide has turned in a positive direction for us," declared Eddy Bruyninckx. "Recent market research has shown that the great majority of our customers see Antwerp as the best choice."

Roger Roels continued "We as a port community will focus even more clearly on our customers, looking at the port as a link in the wider supply chain." Antwerp's location deep inland and its unique skills in logistics, freight handling and industry all have contributed to its stronger competitive positioning. To capitalise on this leading role in the overall production chain, various initiatives have been taken aimed at concentrating on market segments in greater depth and optimising the peripheral conditions.

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