



International Transport Forum 2008
Energy supply and greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector

EIA Position Paper
For the stakeholder's meeting on 24 II 2008

The European Intermodal Association considers the reduction of greenhouse gases and the securing of future energy supply as a prerequisite for the sustainability of our ecological balance. The progressing climate change is showing us considerably that we cannot continue treating our environment and wasting our spare resources like we did in the past. The widely known facts and figures are sufficiently reliable to be taken seriously as a basis for decisions which have to be taken quickly and which must be followed by action of all nations, economic sectors and citizens according to their capacity and ability. The transport sector is particularly concerned by this matter.

The EIA thinks that the transport sector has to become much more efficient. On the one hand more money needs to be invested in research and development in order to be able to use our resources at an optimum level. This is the reason why EIA has stimulated the creation of a specific body EIRAC (European Intermodal Research Advisory Council) with the mission to make use of the substantial financial offers of the EU in the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development. On the other hand, existing networks need to be used more efficiently; bottlenecks and congestion deteriorate the pollution and energy problem. Therefore the EIA supports fully the EU Commissions effort to develop a stronger co-modality.

Thus the transport sector would be turned into an integral whole. The European Commission has already communicated their position in several papers. The EIA thinks that a comprehensive policy will have to take into account beyond the aspects of transport policy the whole spectrum of our life like urbanism, social circumstances, and fiscal conditions etc.

A change is essential, without any doubt, but the way is difficult in a free market economy, where the substantial driver is the profit. As Nicolas Stern said, it was the biggest mistake of market economy to consider the use of our environment as free. We have to find a way of evaluating the "external effects" of our behavior. The EIA expects everybody "to do his duty" in this respect and is ready to support the necessary procedures – according to its traditional mission. Therefore the EIA welcomes deeply that the International Transport Forum has chosen this subject for its annual meeting in Leipzig.

Klaus Ebeling
Secretary General

European Intermodal Association

Address: 44 Rue d'Arenberg, 1000 Brussels/Belgium - Phone: +32 2 514 56 54 - Fax: +32 2 514 67 60
info@eia-ngo.com - www.intermodaltransport.com - Skype: eia-intermodal
Bank: 210-0079 081-78 / Swift: GEBABE BB / IBAN: BE69 2100 0790 8178
FORTIS Bank, Montagne du Parc 3, B-1000 Brussels - VAT: BE 456 220 197