



News

EWTC 2 Final Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania June 7th-8th 2012

Dear participants of the EWTC II
Final Conference,

I want to take the opportunity to thank you through this overview of the eventful days in Vilnius. We aimed at creating an event during which we would of course be informed about the project activities during the past three years, but also be inspired to move from talk to concrete action. I believe that we certainly succeeded in creating that tone and during the discussion in and out of the conference room new plans for the next concrete steps were already made.

The EWTC Association has received recommendations based on the outcomes of the project. These include proposals for taking the next steps in building the operational structure that the corridor governance needs. The project has also resulted in proposed actions of different priorities that are suggested to be carried out by the EWTC.

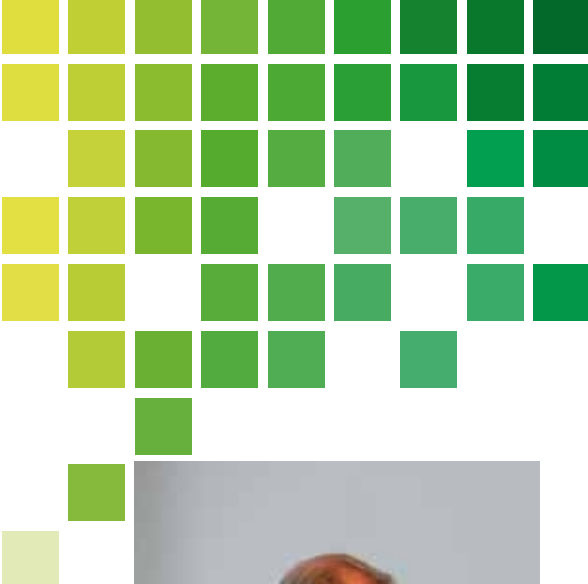
I foresee that the very experienced leaders of the EWTC will have great use of the knowledge gained and networks built within the cooperation in the project.

As we heard in Vilnius, true commitment to the concrete action demands intensity, time and resources. Based on the energy shown during the conference I am sure that the will to work for facilitating a sustainable development in the corridor can be found in all partner countries.

With hopes of successful future collaboration!

Yours sincerely, Mathias Roos





Welcoming words by Mr Sven-Åke Svensson

The EWTC II Final Conference in Vilnius was opened by the Mayor Municipality of Karlshamn and the Vice President of EWTC Mr. Sven-Åke Svensson. In his welcoming words he emphasized the importance of highlighting actions for the nearest future.

–The project has produced many important conclusions that we now must take care of and start to implement. We must start working now, not in the future, but already tomorrow. We must also work even closer; increase the cooperation and include all partners in the work of developing sustainable transport solutions we all could benefit from. All stakeholders must take responsibility in order to implement the results and recommendations from the EWTC members. To be successful we must remember that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Therefore we must all continue to work hard together, Mr Sven-Åke Svensson said.

One order one border

Mr Vytautas Naudužas, Ambassador for Transport and Energy, MFA Lithuania, talked about the opportunities of working close together in the EWTC with the goal of "one order one border".

– Today transport delivers the world to your home. At the same time the competition is tough. Therefore it is time to go from talking to walking. Step by step we can make a difference and create sustainable and efficient transport solutions that make the EWTC a strong competitor.



VYTAUTAS NAUDUŽAS



ULF JOHANSSON

Don't forget your visions!

– Vision without action is daydreaming. Action without visions is a nightmare. With these words, Mr Ulf Johansson, Expert Regional Development on Sweco Eurofutures, put the focus on the importance of both visions and actions as fundamental tools for successful cooperation within the EWTC.



SORIN SIMA, SWEDISH TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION.

Presentation of results from the EWTC II Project

The results from the EWTC II project were presented by the group members in the conference hall and as a mini exhibition in the hotel foyer. The results are now important tools in the continuing work of creating sustainable transport solutions in the East West Transport Corridor.



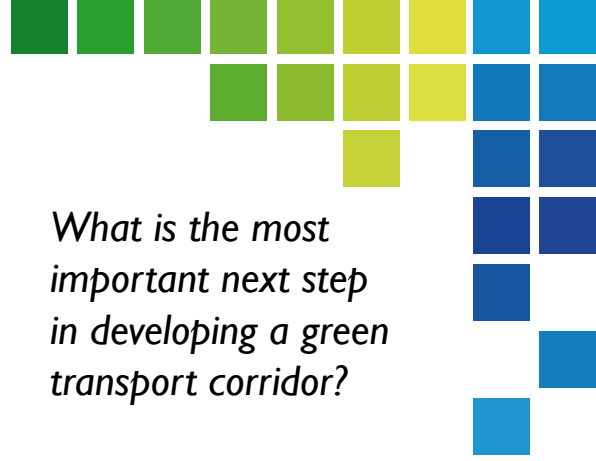
KRISTINA GONTIER, KLAIPEDA STATE SEAPORT AUTHORITY.



GUNNAR FASTÉN, NETPORT, KARLSHAMN.



GESÄ KÖHLER, MINISTRY OF ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND STATE DEVELOPMENT MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN.



What is the most important next step in developing a green transport corridor?



DR. ALGIRDAS ŠAKALYS, PRESIDENT EWTCA, ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF LITHUANIA.

– The most important next step is to prolong the cooperation in the association and continue the work. Next concrete step will be the meeting in Vilnius in June and Potsdam in October where we will decide upon concrete action plans for the next two years.



ANNA-LENA CEDERSTRÖM, CEO REGION BLEKINGE, SWEDEN

– It is important that all partners take actions to live up to and implement the recommendations presented here at the conference. It is also important to communicate the results and continue the work of marketing and lobbying for the East West Transport Corridor.



MIKKEL KROGSGAARD NISS, DANISH TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

– The Green Corridor manual is a really important tool for the implementation of green transport corridors, not only the EWTC but also other transport corridors. The manual is made within the EWTC-project, but the findings are for all green corridors throughout Europe. An important next step would be to implement the green corridor concept to the entire TEN-T network.



Visit to the IT Management centre of Lithuanian Railways

The pre-conference program included an interesting and inspiring visit to the IT Management Centre of Lithuanian Railways. Senior Manager of logistics, Mr Raimondas Sakalys welcomed us and the Chief of the traffic control division, Mr Aleksandr Sirakiov presented the new state of the art IT system for the control and management of the Lithuanian Railway system. The goal with the new system is to change all current Lithuanian railways analogical wireless communication systems into a unified GSM-R wireless communication system, which will comply with EU standards specifications as well as other international standards.

This system will increase the safety of the Lithuanian railway traffic and decrease the risk of accidents as well as improving the efficiency in the EWTC.



Beautiful Vilnius welcomed the conference participants!

On day two, some of the participants had the great pleasure to enjoy a sightseeing tour in Vilnius. The excellent guide Julia Volynece showed us some of the hidden gems. The Old Town was one of the stops. It is declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Here, almost every style of architecture can be found: from gothic, renaissance, baroque, classicism to post-modernism. A stop at St. Peter and Paul's Church is another must. It is a masterpiece of the 17th-century and famous for its exceptional interior with more than 2,000 stucco figures. The Gates of Dawn is one of the most visited shrines in Vilnius, famous not only in Lithuania but also abroad. This is the only surviving gate of the first original five gates in the city wall. The tour also included a short visit to an amber museum where the exhibition tells the visitors about the fascinating morphology of amber. The final destination on the tour was Užupis, sometimes compared to Montmartre in Paris due to its bohemian atmosphere. Užupis is a "republic" of artists. On April fool's Day, 1997, the district declared itself an independent republic. The constitution of the Republic of Užupis is displayed on a fence. One of the rights of the constitution is: People have the right to be happy. And after visiting the beautiful city of Vilnius, I think we all are!



Beautiful Vilnius!



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in Vilnius 2012

VERNER KRISTIANSEN
DID AN EXCELLENT JOB
AS THE CONFERENCE
MODERATOR.



MR GUNNAR FASTÉN,
MR MIKKEL KROGSGAARD
NISS, MR MATHIAS ROOS
AND MR LENNART
FÖRBERG LISTENING AND
LEARNING ABOUT LITHU-
ANIAN RAILWAYS NEW IT
SYSTEM.



" – AN EFFICIENT FLOW IS A
GREEN FLOW!"
MATS OLSSON, MANAGING
DIRECTOR, PORT OF
KARLSHAMN, SWEDEN.



THE USE OF THE AUDIENCE
RESPONSE SYSTEM GAVE THE
CONFERENCE SOME INTEREST-
ING ANSWERS AND SIMUL-
TANEOUS FEEDBACK ON THE
PRESENTATIONS.



INTENSE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE WORKSHOP ON
REVISED STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN.



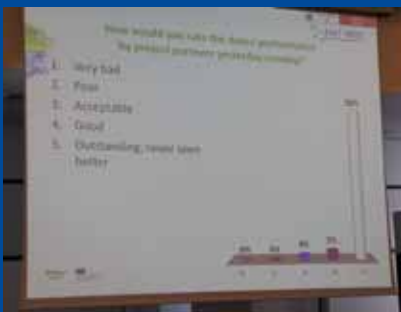
PANEL DISCUSSION: WHAT IS
NEEDED TO CONTINUE TO
DEVELOP THE EWTC?



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WHAT A FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE BY THE STATE SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE LIETUVA!



EVERYBODY SEEMED TO AGREE ON THE DANCE PERFORMANCE BY PROJECT PARTNERS...



ON DAY TWO ON THE CONFERENCE, SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE TO ENJOY A GUIDED SIGHTSEEING TOUR IN VILNIUS BY THE HELP OF THE EXCELLENT GUIDE JULIJA VOLYNEC.

MORE PICTURES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON WWW.EWTC2.EU WITHIN SHORTLY!