

## New Traffic on Corridor X – A Milestone in Combined Transport



Source: Rail Cargo Austria AG

On 16 September 2006, the trial runs of an unaccompanied Rolling Road piggyback service (ROLA) between Wels (Austria) and Istanbul-Halkali (Turkey) will be started. The trains will be operated over the pan-European Corridor X railway lines from Wels via Salzburg – Jesenice – Ljubljana – Zagreb–Belgrade–Sofia to Halkali. Realization of this innovative product was possible thanks to the close cooperation between the train operating companies located along Corridor X, ÖKOMBI GmbH, and Express-Interfracht Internationale Spedition. For all partners involved in the transport, this project concerns only new traffic!

This project represents a major operational, technical and logistical challenge for all parties involved. For the very first time in Europe, Rolling Road wagons will be covering a distance of some 2,000 kilometers per direction. The wagons are owned by ÖKOMBI GmbH. Due to the great distance to be covered, the service will be operated as “unaccompanied transport”, which means that truck drivers will use the plane for their journey between Austria and Turkey.

The first train will start from Wels on 16 September. Departure from Halkali will be on 21 September. It is planned to operate a total of five trial runs. The necessary transport volumes to operate one Rolling Road service per day and direction are available. The goal of all partners cooperating in this project is acquisition of freight volumes for the railway mode and new traffic for Corridor X.