

General Assembly Association Korridor X PLUS

Passing a Declaration to Develop Rail Traffic



“If we want to achieve results on Corridor X, we’ll need to coordinate ourselves well and to work together closely. Serbian Railways will do their best to implement the common goals for quality improvement on this important pan-European Rail axis,” said Milovan Markovic, Director General of Serbian Railways at the opening of the General Assembly of the Association “Korridor X PLUS” on June 18th, 2010 in Belgrade.

The participants were railway representatives from Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and, furthermore, Mr. Matteo Mussini, representative of CER in Brussels.

After an extensive expert analysis of the current situation on this important European transport axis the declaration for development of the pan-European railway Corridor X was adopted. With this document, the members of the Association want to emphasize the importance of Corridor X as a link for people and markets of Central- and South East Europe through to the Asian continent.

The declaration shows the fields of activity and the top priorities of the current and future action programmes with the objective of increasing the competitiveness of this railway line of European importance.

The biggest challenge for the railways is to gradually increase the Corridor’s attractiveness.

The success, of which the Association Korridor X PLUS is convinced as trans-regional initiator, will raise the economic potential of the neighboring regions substantially.

The core issues of the declaration are:

- Achievement of acceptable travel and transport times by cutting of running times and border stops,
- Coordination of infrastructure projects,
- Establishment of further technical infrastructure developments by innovations, whereby the distance to the European standard can gradually be reduced.

The adopted document pictures activities such as taking advantage of market potentials in order to attract more trains to Corridor X and active marketing in order to inform about the corridor's facilities and its numerous benefits.

Particular emphasis was given to the necessity of lobbying activities with relevant European institutions aiming to support (also financially – for example by the European Investment Bank EIB or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development EBRD) and accelerate smaller projects with large optimization potential.

The declaration was adopted unanimously and signed by the representatives of the Railways from Austria (Arnold Schiefer), Slovenia (Jana Pirnar), Croatia (Marijan Klaric), Bulgaria (Alexey Natchev) and Serbia (Slobodan Stamenkovic).

The Association Korridor X PLUS will take up the mentioned tasks with full commitment and make the maximum possible contribution to achieve the targets.