

Hereby the remarks from BIMCO.

BIMCO will bring forward its views as representative for the global shipping industry. It should be remembered that around 90 per cent of World trade is carried by ships and this also goes for EU's external trade and for a very large part of EU internal trade. Therefore BIMCO appreciates that the Commission acknowledges in the Communication that well developed transport connections not only within Europe but also with other parts of the world are essential to maintain its international competitiveness.

BIMCO supports a European transport policy that has as a key element that it will seek to shift transport from congested road transport to alternative modes such as rail, inland waterways and short sea shipping. We acknowledge all the good work done e.g. regarding promotion of short sea shipping services, which perhaps could be developed more. As mentioned shipping has a key role for EU's trade internal and externally. For all these services the TEN-T policy should concentrate on better infrastructure and improved hinterland connections in general. At the same time all transport modes and nodal points should improve their efficiency.

We would like to encourage that consideration is given to have new areas included in the TEN-T framework to improve the transport system in the EU. Perhaps an expanded use of sea-river transport should be considered e.g. bearing in mind the constraints on the Danube. Also a more developed use of technology presently used and designed for public administration purposes e.g. LRIT and AIS could perhaps be used in new ways to facilitate trade and thereby support a more efficient transport system in the EU.

The shipping industry has for many years advocated an extension of port capacity and hinterland connections, which is still the case. The TEN-T are the appropriate instrument to support this request. This support should be general and flexible to avoid dirigisme and keep focus on a market driven development in the ports. Shipping is very flexible and adaptable to the market development and selecting ports and excluding others would not support that. This also leads to the obvious conclusion about the three options that Commission Communication sets out for further TEN-T development, we support option 3.

Kind regards

Michael Lund
Chief International Affairs
Officer

E-mail: mlu@bimco.org
Tel.: +45 4436 6800
Web: www.bimco.org



Remember to register for the BIMCO General Meeting in Athens
Theme "Shipping in Transition" addressing the most acute and topical
factors challenging the well-being of our industry