



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
 Confédération suisse  
 Confederazione Svizzera  
 Swiss Confederation

Federal Office of Transport FOT



# International Corridor Rhine-Alpine Conference 2015

Wednesday, 21 October, Antwerp



picture: north portal Gotthard Base Tunnel, Erstfeld/UR  
 ©Alptransit Gotthard Ltd.





## A milestone for rail freight transport in Europe

Seventeen years after the first blasting cycle for the main gallery, the longest rail tunnel in the world will soon be ready to come into operation.

**On 1 June 2016, the Gotthard Base tunnel will be officially opened. Scheduled operation will begin on 11 December 2016.**

With the construction of the level route through the Alps, Switzerland is writing a new chapter in transport history. Between the first drawing for a base tunnel between Amsteg in the canton of Uri and Bodio in the canton of Ticino in 1947 and the start of construction in 1999, the plans had to be revised several times. The recession in the 1970s and the debate about the different variants delayed the start of the construction project of the century. But the hard work and the discussions have now paid off. The result is an epoch-making structure with broad popular support and sustainable financing.

The economy and the population of the whole of Europe will benefit from the level route under the Gotthard. The tunnel will allow longer, heavier trains with fewer locomotives to operate on the north-south route and will shorten journey times. This will improve the efficiency and reliability of rail freight transport and the railways will become more competitive. In addition, the transport capacity will increase. A total of up to 260 scheduled freight trains can pass through the Gotthard Base Tunnel every day. The maximum figure on the existing mountain route is 180 trains.

Welcome to a new era of rail freight transport in Europe! I am confident that the EU member states will also achieve their transport policy objectives. If rail transport is given the right priority in Europe as well, we will all be winners.

Dr. Peter Füglistaler



# Programme

Venue:

AMUZ Augustinus Muziekcentrum, Kammenstraat 81, BE- 2000 Antwerpen

www.amuz.be - T +32 (0)3 292 36 84

Morning

## The longest railway tunnel in the world Countdown to the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel

Moderator: **Mrs Conny Czymoch**

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From 09.00	Guest registration Welcome and coffee
10.00-10.15	<b>Opening session</b>  <b>Peter Füglistaler</b> , Director, Swiss Federal Office of Transport FOT, Bern, Switzerland <b>Christian Meuwly</b> , Designated Swiss Ambassador, Brussels, Belgium <b>Luc Arnouts</b> , Chief Commercial Officer, Port of Antwerp, Belgium
10.15-10.45	<b>The importance of efficient North-South rail freight connections Political viewpoint of Belgium and the Netherlands</b>  <b>Jacqueline Galant</b> , Minister of Mobility, Brussels, Belgium  <b>Hellen van Dongen</b> , Director for Public Transport and Rail, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, The Hague, Netherlands
10.45-11.00	<b>Rail Freight Transport in Europe – Port of Antwerp</b>  <b>Luc Arnouts</b> , Chief Commercial Officer, Port of Antwerp, Belgium
11.00-11.15	<b>Countdown to the Gotthard Base Tunnel on 1 June 2016! Alpine Transit – Switzerland’s achievement of the century</b>  <b>Peter Füglistaler</b> , Director, Swiss Federal Office of Transport FOT, Bern, Switzerland
11.15-12.30	<b>Increased capacity and faster connections through the Alps</b>  <b>What are the benefits for the industry?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Anton Bril</b>, Manager of Trade Services, Dutch Association of Wholesalers in Flowers and Plants VGB, Aalsmeer, Netherlands</li><li>▪ <b>Ákos Érsek</b>, Chief Policy Advisor, UIRR International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport, Brussels, Belgium</li><li>▪ <b>Peter Füglistaler</b>, Director, Swiss Federal Office of Transport FOT, Bern, Switzerland</li><li>▪ <b>Bernhard Kunz</b>, Managing Director, Hupac Intermodal, Chiasso, Switzerland</li><li>▪ <b>Mauro Pessano</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Captrain Italia, Milan, Italy</li></ul> Audience discussion
12.30-14.00	Lunch

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# Afternoon

Moderator: *Mrs Conny Czymoch*

## Connecting Europe

14.00-14.15

### Welcome

**Marc Van Peel**, Vice Mayor of the City of Antwerp, Alderman for the Port, Industry and Employment, President Antwerp Port Authority, Belgium

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### The rail future of Europe – Trans European Network

14.15-15.00

**Herald Ruijters**, Head of Unit, MOVE.B1 - Trans-European Network, Mobility and Transport, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

**Pawel Wojciechowski**, European Coordinator of the Rhine-Alpine Core Network RFC, Brussels, Belgium

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15.00–15.30

### Rail freight developments in Europe

**Guillaume Confais-Morieux**, Managing Director, EEIG RFC North Sea - Mediterranean, Brussels, Belgium

**Stefan Wendel**, Managing Director, EEIG RFC Rhine-Alpine, Frankfurt on the Main, Germany

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15.30-16.00

Break

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16.00-17.15

### Connecting Europe! The needs of the market

- **Markus Bangen**, Member of the Executive Board, Duisburger Hafen AG, Duisburg, Germany
- **Philippe Bihouix**, Director of International Rail Activities, SNCF Logistics - Direction Fret, Clichy La Garenne, France
- **Geert Pauwels**, Chief Executive Officer, NMBS Logistics, Brussels, Belgium
- **Dirk Stahl**, Chief Executive Officer, BLS Cargo AG, Bern, Switzerland
- **Ad Toet**, Executive Director, Koninklijk Nederlands Vervoer KNV, The Hague, Netherlands

Audience discussion

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17.15-17.30

### Summary and outlook – Final statements

**Ann Billiau**, President, EEIG RFC North Sea – Mediterranean, Brussels, Belgium

**Guus de Mol**, President, EEIG RFC Rhine-Alpine, Utrecht, Netherlands

**Peter Füglistaler**, Director, Swiss Federal Office of Transport FOT, Bern, Switzerland

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17.30

End of conference

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17.45

Transfer to Port of Antwerp (only registered guests)

Evening programme: Boat trip around the Port of Antwerp (incl. dinner)

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approx. 21.00

End of evening programme

