

## Summary of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with the RFC North Sea – Baltic

### RAG & TAG on 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021

**Date: 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 via Microsoft Teams**

#### **1. Welcome and introduction.**

Oliver Sellnick, Chairman of the RFC NS-B Management Board, welcomed the participants. Participants introduced themselves. Chairman presented the agenda which was adopted.

#### **2. RAG slot**

Dirk Zender presented the overview of topics pre-discussed with RAG:

- Workshop in Małaszewicze – RAG is in favour of further postponement and organising the workshop as a physical meeting;
- RAG is interested to learn about the actions taken as a result of USS and number of the customer wishes realised in PaP offer 2022;
- RAG would like to increase their participation in RFC TCR coordination meetings; it was agreed that RAG speaker will be invited for the WG TCR meeting.

Dirk Zender informed about two presentations to be given by advisory group members:

- Presentation of GVT Group of Logistics – Eric Niewenhuis

Eric Niewenhuis focused on Frankfurt Oder Oderbrucke and proposed solutions to increase the capacity of this border station, which has been identified as one of the main bottlenecks of the corridor. He mentioned that there are obviously infrastructural issues but some problems are operational and could be easily solved. He proposed to establish dedicated taskforce.

Oliver Sellnick informed about the governmental programme on 740 m trains in Germany to be introduced, to allow long train not only technically but also in operations. He added that some answers to the presentation will be given under dedicated point of the agenda.

- Presentation of PKP Cargo on Initiatives to improve China-Europe railway transport

Kacper Kubrak from PKP S.A. group and Agnieszka Świerczyńska from PKP Cargo S.A. presented the initiatives to improve China-Europe railway transport with special attention to the activities under the Agreement of 7 railways for further cooperation on China Europe Container Block Trains. The main goal of this initiative is to ensure the sustainable development of linear and point infrastructure in the signatory countries along the routes set out under the One Belt One Road initiative. The Parties actively work to optimize transport and promote stable and smooth transport of container trains, the volume of which, despite the pandemic, has increased. Agnieszka Świerczyńska presented PKP Cargo investments till 2026 on the New Silk Road with the main focus on: investments of CARGOTOR in Małaszewicze Logistics Port (MLP), investments of CARGOTOR in Małaszewicze Logistics Port (MLP), new container terminal in Geniusze at Kuźnica Białostocka - Bruzgi border crossing and central container terminal in Zduńska Wola-Karsznice.

At the end of the RAG slot, Dirk Zender thanked all participants for the cooperation and informed that as he is stepping back, Lieven Goethals will replace him till the new RAG Speaker

will be elected. Oliver Sellnick thanked him on behalf of the corridor and wished lots of success in the future work.

### **3. TAG slot**

Friedrich Stuhmann (TAG Speaker) informed that according to the request he collected feedback on the long train issue in terminals which he would present under point 7 of the agenda. Additionally, he informed that he is changing company therefore will not be able to act as a spokesperson. Election for TAG speaker will be organized.

Oliver Sellnick thanked him for very good cooperation and his involvement in the corridor development.

### **4. Presentation of PaP catalogue for TT 2022**

Felicia Riedl welcomed the participants and informed that RAG speaker's question asked during RAG slot needs a deeper analysis and she will provide answer after the teleconference. C-OSS Manager informed participants about the offer published in January 2021, pointing out improvements in the offer.

### **5. Landbridge to Asia project – state of play**

Weronika Karbowskiak informed that RFC NS-B together with several other RFCs decided to set up the project ILEA (Improving Links to Euro-Asian Landbridges). To identify the main issues and being able to prioritize tasks under the project a survey among customers is being conducted, Weronika Karbowskiak encouraged participants to take part in the survey as deadline had been prolonged till 02.04.2021.

The project to be financed by the European Commission will focus on:

- Improvement of the border processes;
- Better coordination between IMs and customers;
- Intensified coordination between RFC's and non-EU countries;
- Removal of other barriers identified during the project.

Weronika Karbowskiak presented next steps planned before the project submission:

- Analysis of the survey results;
- Discussion on results with other RFCs;
- Integration of results in the draft project plan;
- Brainstorming with the stakeholders during common workshop on 29.04.2021;
- Further development of draft project plan.

Customers are invited to actively participate in the project definition.

### **6. Border issues:**

- Status continuous improvement process Bad Bentheim

Zuhail Nalbant presented the state of play of the process improvement on Bad Bentheim:

- After workshops in 2018 and 2019, a third workshop was organized by DB Netz & ProRail in 2020 where the decision on the Action Plan was made;
- Most of the defined actions were implemented successfully, around 20% are still open;

The following issues are to be finalised:

- Implementation of an optimized process for the coordination of ad-hoc timetable at NL-DE border;
- Implementation of the Railway Undertakings MoU;
- Development and Implementation of the Dwelling Time Report;

- Get an official authorization for German track measurement trains to run on the Dutch cross border section;
- Improvement of communication between Grenzdisponent and Traffic Management Bad Bentheim.

With the continuous collaboration the status of pending actions will be reported during next meetings.

- Start continuous improvement process Frankfurt/Oder

Dirk Ölschläger informed that DB Cargo took an initiative to address main issues on the border crossing Frankfurt Oder Oderbrücke – Rzepin on the basis of Concept for an ideal border section elaborated by UIC subgroup. The aim is to increase productivity by simplification of processes and resource-saving optimization of international rail freight.

DB Netz, PKP PLK and interested RUs will discuss problems and decide on the measures. Kick-off workshop will be organized in May/June 2021.

In reference to the presentation of GVT Group of Logistics, Eric Niewenhuis was invited to take part in the workshop.

- Małaszewicze - state of play and how to proceed with workshop?

Dawid Baranowski from PL Ministry of Infrastructure gave information about the modernization of the Polish-Belarusian border crossing Brest – Terespol from the Ministries perspective and Jarosław Majchrzak presented PLK investments on rail border crossing and on railway lines running to the border. Damian Figurski asked about the impact that those investments planned will have on the capacity. Jarosław Majchrzak informed that if all planned investments would be finalised the possible number of trains will be doubled.

Dirk Zender added that these activities are highly appreciated and he is looking forward for the workshop in Małaszewicze. Decision on the workshop date will be taken in June and will depend on current pandemic situation.

## **7. 740 m trains on RFC North Sea- Baltic:**

- Capacity Improvement Study

Roberto Zani from TPlan company presented a summary of the capacity improvement study giving the information about the state of play for the years 2018 and 2030. According to the study performed 36,9% of corridor lines were affected by technical constraints in 2018 and only 7% in 2030, 13,1% of corridor lines were affected by capacity constraints in 2018 and 10,8% in 2030. By 2030, if all planned investments would be finalized, it will be technically possible to run long trains along the corridor. Roberto Zani presented the identified measures of modernisation and upgrading of corridor lines, measures to solve capacity limitations at handover stations and costs estimations of the identified measures.

- State of play of RFC terminals

Friedrich Stuhmann presented the information on the possible train length in terminals as this part of the study could not be properly described due to low response rate. According to the information passed most of the main terminals already are or soon will be ready to handle long trains.

TAG speaker additionally informed that during the analysis of Rzepin terminal it was noted that the organization of Frankfurt Oder Oderbrücke border station is limiting current

maximum train length so he welcomed the proposal of establishing a taskforce and having a dedicated workshop, as his intention was to propose the same.  
Oliver Sellnick thanked Friedrich Stuhmann for the valuable information.

## **8. Information on future extensions**

WK informed about the following corridor extension:

- Extension to Ports of Ghent (Terneuzen), Zeebrugge and Medyka:
  - The Management Board and Executive Board decided on 30.03.2021 to officially extend the Corridor in January 2022;
  - Next steps will focus on the exact routing definition and Implementation Plan update;
  - Consultation of the updated IP with stakeholders (RAG/TAG) are planned for September.
- Extension to Rezekne and Daugavpils:
  - The letter of intent was sent to the European Commission by the RFC Ministries on 28.01.2021;
  - EC has 9 months to evaluate the proposal and take a decision.

## **9. Presentation of new Members on RFC North Sea-Baltic**

Gundars Abols representing Latvian Railways and Taavi Toom for Estonian Railways gave information about the infrastructure and traffic on Latvian and Estonian networks.

## **10. State of play on Rail Baltica project**

Topic was postponed for the next RAG/TAG meeting.

## **11. Conclusions of & recommendations from the User Satisfaction Survey 2020**

Topic was postponed for the next RAG/TAG meeting.

## **12. AOB:**

- Topics for the next RAG/TAG meeting

Oliver Sellnick and Weronika Karbowski summarised the topics proposed during the meeting:

- Landbridge to Asia;
- Frankfurt Oder - follow up;
- Małaszewicze workshop;
- Performance issue, KPI/Punctuality report;
- State of play on Rail Baltica project;
- Conclusions and recommendations from the User Satisfaction Survey 2020.

- Rail Facilities Portal promotion (written info)

Information was sent out in advance to participants.

Oliver Sellnick thanked the participants for taking part in the meeting. He also invited to give remarks about the organization of the meetings and advices for better RFC time management.

## **List of annexes and presentations:**

All the presentations and annexes are available on the RFC NS-B website in the Download area <http://rfc8.eu/downloads/>.

- 1) Agenda for the RAG-TAG meeting on 31.03.2021
- 2) Annex 1. Agenda topic 4. PaP capacity offer TT2022\_RFC NS-B
- 3) Annex 2. Agenda topic 5. Landbridge to Asia
- 4) Annex 3. Agenda topic 6. Status Bad Bentheim and Frankfurt Oder\_final
- 5) Annex 4. Agenda topic 7. SCl presentation
- 6) Annex 5. Agenda\_topic\_8.\_information\_on\_future\_corridor\_extensions
- 7) Annex 6. Agenda topic 9. EVR presentation
- 8) Annex 7. Agenda topic 10. 31032021 Rail Baltica progress
- 9) Annex 8. Agenda topic 11.\_uss\_2020\_results\_for\_rag\_tag\_meeting
- 10) Annex 9. Agenda topic 12. RFP-General\_Presentation\_15022021
- 11) Annex 10. Agenda topic 9. Latvian\_Railway\_RAG TAG 31.03.2021 final
- 12) Annex 11. Agenda topic 6. Małaszewicze-Terespol\_EN
- 13) Annex 12. Agenda topic 6. Presentation on PL\_BY border - progress report
- 14) Annex 13. Agenda topic 10. Rail Baltica\_ENv31.03.2021
- 15) Annex 14. Agenda topic 2 RAG slot\_PKPCargo\_PKP
- 16) Annex 15. Agenda topic 7. 20210331\_RFC8-TAG-Ability to serve 740m trains

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