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PRESS RELEASE

First international Corridor 1 Conference in Rotterdam will stimulate discussion Need to optimise sustainable transportation of goods by rail

Rotterdam, 10th of October 2011 – Optimising sustainable international transportation of goods by rail between the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Italy: that is the focus of the Corridor 1 conference to be held for the first time in Rotterdam on 9 November 2011. The conference is organised by the Swiss Federal Office of Transport and the Swiss Embassy in the Netherlands

Corridor 1 goes from Rotterdam, Antwerp, Zeebrugge through Germany and Switzerland, to Genoa in Italy. It is the most important and busiest North-South axis for rail freight transport in Europe. Freight traffic is expected to double by 2020. These are reasons for examining – especially in the context of the European Union – how rail freight transport can be optimised and the costs reduced. One of the most important developments here is the new infrastructure for transit across the Swiss Alps, such as the Gotthard base tunnel. This 57 km railway tunnel will open to traffic in 2016.

The Corridor 1 conference will encourage the international discussion about intermodal sustainable transportation. The idea behind the series of conferences is to engage politicians, experts, citizens and companies, in each of the countries linked to the corridor, in discussion about the future development of international goods transport. What options are there for collaboration, sustainability and transport by road and by rail? And what is the position on open frontiers for goods transport? Various speakers and leading players from the sector will address the conference.

Markus Börlin, Swiss Ambassador to the Netherlands, and Peter Füglistaler, Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Transport, will open the conference.

For the complete programme see
www.bav.admin.ch/exhibitions/corridor_1_conference



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Corridor in figures

Geographical distance	Rotterdam-Genoa 1400 km Zeebrugge-Genoa 1500 km
Length of the route	2500 km
Five countries	The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy
6 infrastructure companies	ProRail (NL), Infrabel (B), DB Netz (D), SBB and BLS Netz (CH), RFI (I)
Transport volume	Largest transport volume in Europe. About to double from 2005 (28.3 bn tkm) to 2020 (58.9 bn tkm)
Four sea ports, six inland ports approx. 50 intermodal terminals	

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