

LETTER OF INTENT

on the development of the Corridor E Dresden – Prague – Vienna/Bratislava – Budapest

between

The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany

The Ministry of Transport, Czech Republic

The Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Republic of Austria

The Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, Slovak Republic

The Ministry of Economy and Transport, Republic of Hungary

Wishing to support international freight and passenger transport while taking in consideration the integration of road and rail connections for the benefit of the European transport infrastructure

Referring to the definition of the Pan-european multimodal transport corridor IV, and to European priority transport projects further defined by Decision 1692/1996/EC as amended by the Decision No 884/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

Inviting activities related to the corridor, which have already been completed or are being prepared

Having regard to the importance of the corridor Dresden-Prague-Vienna/Bratislava-Budapest for the rail freight transport between the North-Western and South-Eastern Europe, and to the need to put through the Directive 2001/16/EC on the interoperability of the European conventional rail system, especially by implementing the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS), and

Taking into account, that

- the TSI „Control – Command and Signalling“ for the ERTMS has been effective since 28th September 2006
- the European Commission has asked for the strategy of implementing ERTMS in the EU member states for the purpose of its negotiations with the European Parliament and Council
- the European Commission appointed Mr. Karel Vinck as a coordinator of the ERTMS implementation on the Trans-European Networks (TEN), with a special emphasis on main freight transport corridors, like the corridor Dresden – Budapest
- on request of transport ministries, the participating infrastructure managers drew up a practicable ERTMS implementation strategy for each corridor section, and expressed their support to a proposed agreement
- the implementation of ERTMS is the basis of the corridor optimisation, with the aim to increase traffic flow and transport quality
- the European Commission promotes the ERTMS implementing both on infrastructure elements and onboard equipment of rail vehicles
- the European Parliament Resolution supports the fast implementation of the ERTMS on six freight corridors

Have agreed to support following actions

- to implement ERTMS on the above mentioned corridor by 2015 (except for the stretch Dresden – Děčín which will be fitted with ERTMS by 2020), so that rail vehicles equipped with ERTMS could be operated at least on one branch of the corridor since then
- to draw the program of investments into infrastructure concerning ERTMS with the aim to increase effectiveness of the corridor, as well as benefits for rail transport operators, including a detailed implementation plan
- to submit where possible a joint application of the participating EU member states for co-financing from the EU TEN and Cohesion funds for the period 2007-2013
- in order to ensure required funds for financing of the national corridor parts, the interested partner ministries will take all necessary measures, consistent with the national budget planning, the national and European rules of state assistance, as well as conditions of competition

- the given infrastructure managers and railway undertakings will set up a European Economic Interest Group (EEIG), which will ensure the ERTMS implementation on the corridor in cooperation with ERA, UNIFE and other railway organisations (CER, EIM, ERFA, UIC)
- to ensure that safety bodies responsible for homologation of ERTMS facilities on infrastructure and rail vehicles will submit the agreement on cooperation to the ministers and the European coordinator to speed up the process of certification.

This Letter of Intent will become effective when being signed by all parties.

This Letter of Intent has been drawn in five original copies in English language.

Signed in: Berlin

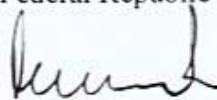
Date: 14. Mai 2007



Mr. Jörg Hennerkes
Federal Ministry of Transport,
Building and Urban Affairs
Federal Republic of Germany

Signed in: Berlin

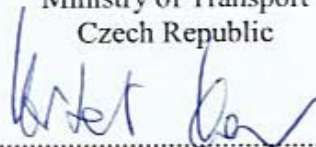
Date: 14. Mai 2007



Mr. Vojtěch Kocourek
Ministry of Transport
Czech Republic

Signed in: Wien

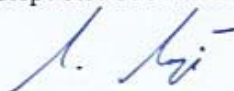
Date: 15. Mai 2007



Mr. Herbert Kasser
Federal Ministry of Transport,
Innovation and Technology
Republic of Austria

Signed in: Bratislava

Date: 15. Mai 2007



Mr. Milan Mojš
Ministry of Transport,
Posts and Telecommunications
Slovak Republic

Signed in: Budapest

Date: 22. Mai 2007



Mr. Balázs Felsmann
Ministry of Economy and Transport
Republic of Hungary

Annex: Corridor E

