



**Port System Authority
of the Eastern Adriatic Sea**
Port of Trieste

PRESS RELEASE

**THE TRAIN LINKING THE ADRIATIC AND THE BALTIC SEAS
ORIGINATES IN THE PORT OF TRIESTE**

**THIS MORNING THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY
OF THE NEW INTERMODAL SERVICE
ON THE KIEL – GÖTEBORG LINE**

The first train linking the Adriatic and the Baltic seas originates in Trieste. The official ceremony for the inauguration of the new long-distance intermodal service from the Northern Adriatic port towards Kiel-Göteborg, with arrivals and departures by sea from Turkey and Greece, was held this morning at the EMT terminal on Pier VI.

The service, promoted by EKOL, a Turkish logistic operator that recently acquired the majority shareholding in the EMT terminal, was successfully launched a few weeks ago and is the first operational connection along the TEN-T Baltic-Adriatic corridor.

Departures are scheduled every Wednesday at 11 a.m. from Trieste, arriving next day in Kiel, Germany, at 1 p.m., covering a rail distance of 1,360 km in 26 hours. The cargo then proceeds by sea for another 234 miles, to reach the final destination of Göteborg in Sweden on Friday morning, after 14 hours of navigation.

“This project has a great value because it expands the penetration of the port of Trieste to the north, towards the Scandinavian countries and potentially to Russia; to the south-east, beyond Turkey - the port’s established partner - also towards Iran and other destinations. The connection confirms Trieste’s great railway vocation, which is central for the entire Italian port system, and bears witness to the cooperation with the Government, the Italian Railways (RFI) and private operators aimed at projects that can bring competitive advantages in the short term,” declared Zeno D’Agostino, chairman of the Eastern Adriatic Port System Authority.

The new connection falls within the growing development of the port of Trieste, which has witnessed a 68% increase in rail traffic in two years (+27% in 2015 alone), making a total of more than 7,600 trains handled in the year just ended, and combined with a series of investments in infrastructures, both by the Port Authority and by private companies. The weekly frequency of the service will shortly be doubled in view of the growing traffic volume. Up to 3 rotations every 7 days are expected.

TX Logistik and Mercitalia Rail are collaborating in the project for rail haulage, Alpe Adria and TX Logistik as MTO, and Stena Line for the continuation by sea to Göteborg.

Taking part in the inauguration were Francesco Parisi, chairman of Francesco Parisi Casa di Spedizioni, Ahmet Musul, managing director of Ekol, Zeno D’Agostino, chairman of the Eastern Adriatic Port System Authority, Robert Rydberg, Swedish ambassador in Italy, Debora Serracchiani, President of the Autonomous

Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Roberto Dipiazza, Mayor of Trieste, Dirk Claus, managing director of the port of Kiel, and Pietro Mancuso, managing director of TX Logistik.

“Thanks also to this connection, the port of Trieste is confirmed as one of the most important ports in Italy. The only one at this moment that has succeeded in achieving a fundamental logistic dream: to be the hub between north and south along the Baltic-Adriatic corridor,” announced Debora Serracchiani, President of the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

“Today we celebrate the launch of an intermodal service that notably extends the market prospects of the port of Trieste, placing it right in the centre of a system that links Northern Europe to the Orient. It also has a profound symbolic value, since it is the first real connection on the Baltic-Adriatic corridor,” stressed Francesco Parisi, chairman of Francesco Parisi Casa di Spedizioni.

“In the context of EKOL’s constant expansion strategy, we are very pleased to offer a new intermodal bridge that links the Far East – Turkey and Iran – with Trieste, with Central Europe, but also with Northern Germany, the Baltic Sea, Scandinavia and Russia. An efficient service in terms of time and also of ecology, because it reduces road traffic and emissions, and can open up new economic business opportunities among the areas that it connects,” stated Ahmet Musul, managing director of Ekol.

For Robert Rydberg, the Swedish ambassador in Italy, “In the context of nations that are looking towards protectionism and the closing of frontiers, it is important to show how free trade is an important source of economic development, wellbeing and peaceful relations. This new connection is therefore the symbol that a bridge between the continents of Europe and Asia is both possible and positive.”

“Never as much as today,” declared Roberto Dipiazza, Mayor of Trieste, “has our city experienced such a great project activity: the New Port, the Old Port and also EZIT show how, despite the crisis, Trieste is looking forward and is already working towards new targets. The commitment of the institutions must be to work together in the interest of the territory. Only in that way can we grow and create development and work.”

“Kiel and Trieste are crucial points of departure for maritime traffic to Scandinavia and Turkey, the rail connection between them is the best way of connecting these two important logistic hubs and of opening up incredible new potentials. The fact that the service is already ‘fully booked’ shows how great were the interest and the need to create this service,” stressed Dirk Claus, managing director of the port of Kiel.

Lastly, Pietro Mancuso, managing director of TX Logistik, concluded, “This project shows the collaboration between different sectors of the Ferrovie Italiane group and it has a tangible ecological aspect, taking a large number of trucks off the road and thus reducing harmful emissions. It is also a more efficient connection because the intermodal approach connects the points of departure and arrival more rapidly and better meets customer requirements.”

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