

## Transport and Environment News

### CER Libor Lochman takes part to a seminar focusing on the railway sector

On 26 September 2013 CER Executive Director Libor Lochman took part in a seminar in Banja Luka, organised by the Railway of Republika Srpska.

At the presence of from the Minister of Transport and other members of the cabinet, of the Parliament and academia representatives, CER Executive Director Libor Lochman has been joined by ŽRS CEO Dragan Savanović and by UIC Director General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux in addressing a crowded audience.



*According to the speakers, the political attention should increase on the railway sector in Banja Luka*

All speakers underlined the necessity to increase the political attention on the railway sector. According to ŽRS CEO Dragan Savanovic, railways are a driver for the whole regional economy and dedicated resources should be allocated to both freight and passenger transport. In fact, if freight transport benefits from the presence of a number of iron ores in the area, passenger transport does not seem to offer yet the levels of comfort which would be expected by passengers. In this regard, ŽRS is committed to fight against modal shift towards road.

Furthermore, ŽRS CEO Dragan Savanovic highlighted that railways of the Republic of Srpska, as well as the political and economic decision-makers in the RS have tried to follow the developments in the field of railway transport. But obviously more investments are needed: in the rail infrastructure and in mobile capacities in order to respond better to the current needs of the economy and future challenges.

He also mentioned that ŽRS is performing well in terms of freight traffic and this positive trend should be maintained. Nonetheless he outlined that an adequate model for co-financing the passenger traffic should be found in order to justify the public service obligation. Also, in order to meet the demands of modern passengers (i.e. comfort, speed, better services), the lines need to be modernised and modern rolling stock acquired. Co-financing of public transport is a common obligation of the Government and local communities.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman emphasised that an intelligent, selective transposition and application of the EU rail 'acquis' is essential for the future of all railways in the region. Multi-annual contracts between the government and the infrastructure manager, sensible level of access charges, sound financing of the infrastructure are key factors for any future and efficient development.

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## **Libor Lohman učestvovao na seminaru posvećenom željezničkom sektoru**

Izvršni direktor CER Libor Lohman učestvovao je 26. septembra na seminaru u Banjaluci, koji su organizovale Željeznice Republike Srpske.

U prisustvu ministra saobraćaja te ostalih članova Vlade, Parlamenta i predstavnika akademske zajednice, izvršnom direktoru CER Liboru Lohmanu su se pridružili generalni direktor ŽRS Dragan Savanović i generalni direktor UIC Žan-Pjer Lubinu, obraćajući se mnogobrojnoj publici.

Svi izlagači su naglasili potrebu za većom političkom pažnjom ka željezničkom sektoru. Sudeći po generalnom direktoru ŽRS, Draganu Savanoviću, željeznice su pokretač cjelokupne regionalne privrede i neophodno je obezbijediti namjenska sredstva, kako za robni, tako i za putnički saobraćaj. Zapravo, ako se za robni saobraćaj može reći da bilježi dobre rezultate zahvaljujući prisustvu željezne rude u regionu, čini se da putnički saobraćaj još uvijek ne pruža nivo komfora koji očekuju putnici. U tom pogledu, ŽRS su posvećene borbi za povećanje udjela željezničkog u odnosu na drumski saobraćaj.

Pored toga, g. Savanović je istakao da su Željeznice Republike Srpske, kao i politički i ekonomski donosioci odluka u RS nastojali da prate promjene u oblasti željezničkog saobraćaja. Međutim, evidentno je da je potrebno više investicija u željezničku infrastrukturu i mobilne kapacitete kako bi se bolje odgovorilo na tekuće trendove u privredi, te buduće izazove.

Takođe je spomenuo da ŽRS bilježe dobre rezultate u robnom saobraćaju i da ovaj pozitivan trend treba zadržati. Pa ipak, smatra da je potrebno pronaći adekvatan model za sufinansiranje putničkog saobraćaja kako bi se opravdala obaveza javnog prevoza. Isto tako, da bi se zadovoljile potrebe savremenih putnika (tj. komfor, brzina, bolje usluge), pruge je potrebno modernizovati i nabaviti moderna vozna sredstva. Sufinansiranje javnog prevoza je zajednička obaveza Vlade i lokalnih zajednica.

Izvršni direktor CER, Libor Lohman, naglasio je da je jedno inteligentno, selektivno prenošenje i primjena pravne tekovine EU u oblasti željezničkog saobraćaja od suštinskog značaja za budućnost željeznica u regionu. Višegodišnji ugovori između Vlade i upravljača infrastrukture, razumne visine naknada za korišćenje infrastrukture, te stabilno finansiranje infrastrukture, predstavljaju ključne faktore za svaki budući i efikasan razvoj.