



PRESS RELEASE

The European Rail Freight Corridor No. 7 is in operation from today thanks to a cooperation of 7 European countries

- **A piece of success for the establishment of the European rail network for competitive freight -**

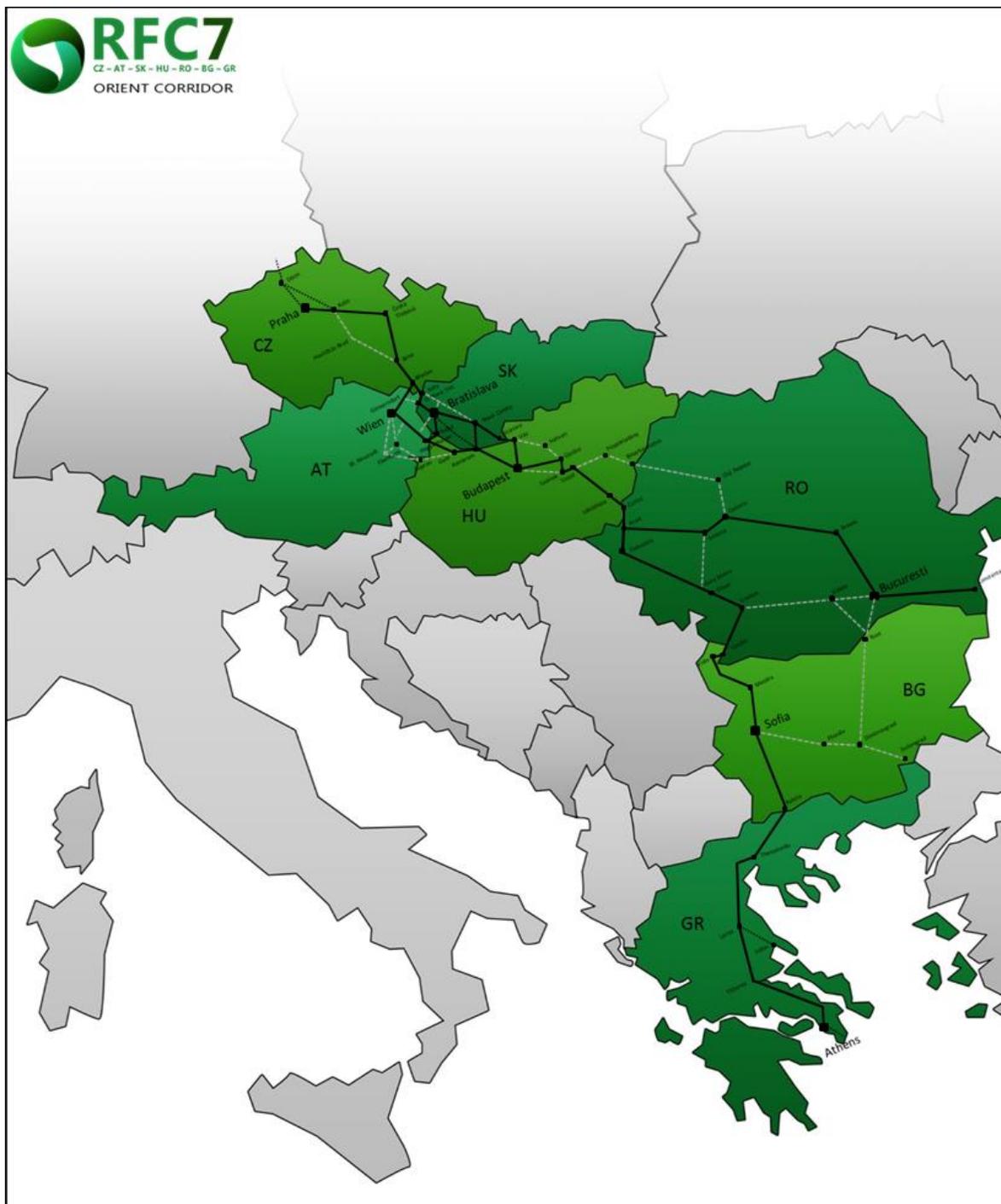
8th November 2013 Budapest – Today at 12.00 o'clock the Rail Freight Corridor No.7 launched its operation respecting the timeframe determined in the Regulation 913/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The European Union designated 9 international rail freight corridors, the so called "RFC"-corridors in the EU rail network of which 6 corridors with the establishment deadline of 10th November 2013. RFC-7 is defined to run through the Prague-Vienna/Bratislava-Budapest-Bucharest-Constanta and – Vidin-Sofia-Thessaloniki-Athens axis. 7 European countries, namely the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece with their 8 railway Infrastructure Managers and a Capacity Allocation Body established the corridor in order to build an essential connection between Central Europe and South-East Europe and form a link to Asia through the Black Sea and Aegean Sea ports offering a good, reliable service based on harmonised technical and procedural conditions. As the first act of the corridor opening, the Corridor-OSS manager will designate the first pre-arranged path at 12.00 o'clock for Prvá Slovenská Železničná railway undertaking between Prague and Curtici.

The Commission of the European Union proposed in 2008 the implementation of international rail freight corridors forming a European rail network for competitive freight on which freight trains can run under better conditions and easily pass from one national network to another without any administrative obstacle. Within the framework of the freight corridor, good coordination between the Member States and the Infrastructure Managers concerned should be ensured, a priority shall be given to the so called "corridor trains" based on guaranteeing the consistency and continuity of the infrastructure capacities available along the whole corridor. Infrastructure Managers of the freight corridors shall jointly define and organise international pre-arranged train paths for freight trains, where they shall facilitate smooth transit along the corridor, adequate journey times, frequencies and they shall remove bottlenecks along the corridor too.

In order to fulfil the requirements and expectations described in the regulation, the participating railway companies of RFC-7 - led by MÁV Zrt. - implemented a number of measures to be able to run the corridor by the specified deadline. Thanks to the harmonised work during the last 2 years, the international freight undertaking - Prvá Slovenská Železničná – could have been provided with the 1st designation of pre-arranged path on 8th November 2013 between Czech Republic and Romania, from Prague to Curtici by a special software (PCS) presented on the spot. With this act the corridor started its real operation.

The opening ceremony of the RFC-7 Corridor gathered a large number of significant representatives who has played an important role in the establishment and realisation of the Corridor: representatives of the Ministry of National Development of Hungary, representatives of respective Ministries of the partners, representative from the National Regulatory Body, members of the Management Board and Executive Board of RFC-7, Czech Republic, (SZDC), Slovakia, (ZSR), Austria, (ÖBB-Infrastruktur), Hungary, (GYSEV, MÁV Zrt., VPE Kft.), Romania, (CFR), Bulgaria, (NRIC), Greece, (OSE); and representatives from significant European rail freight undertakings and terminals of the relevant regions attended the event.



More information is available at the website of RFC-7 Secretariat: <http://www.rfc7.eu/>