Inland container transport from
UNIMODAL TO SYNCHROMODAL

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Regional Conference for Logistics Service Providers, 23 June 2016
Intermodal transport
Inland transport modes

**Road**
- Infrastructure capacity limited
- Flexible deployment of transport capacity

**Rail**
- Regulated infrastructure capacity
- Complex governance structure
- Shuttle services

**Inland Waterways**
- Infrastructure bottlenecks at locks and bridges
- Scheduled services
- Variety of vessel sizes
Differences unimodal vs intermodal
Added value of intermodal transport

*Shipper*
- Increase reliability and flexibility
- Decrease costs and carbon footprint

*Governments & port authorities*
- Accessibility
- Competitive position
- Sustainability
Position of freight forwarder
Mental shift

• Plan in advance;
• Transit time might increase;
• Increase truck utilization by focusing on pre- and end haulage;
• Volumes need to be bundled to utilize economies of scale of the trains or barges;
• Inland terminal becomes the new partner.
Intermodal, co-modal and synchromodal transport

Intermodal Transport

Co-modal Transport

Synchromodal Transport

- Origin
- Destination
- Mode switch option
- Route
- Alternative route
Synchromodal transport

When feasible, transport by rail or inland waterways, otherwise transport by truck (co-modality).

Necessary information:
• What transportation means and infrastructure is available shortly and is able to transport the container?
• What are the benefits if we use an alternative transport means and infrastructure?
• What are the costs and benefits of switching between modes?
A-modal booking

• Definition: Booking of transportation without specifying the mode of transport in advance;

• Advantage of booking mode in advance: clear what capacity needs to be reserved;

• Advantage of a-modal booking: flexible deployment of transport resources.
**Extended Gate Idea** Push large volumes of containers from seaport terminals to inland terminals immediately after arrival and postpone the customs release to the inland terminals.
Characteristics extended gate services

Release Service
• Arrangement of the customs release process under shipper’s customs license

Paperless Service
• Containers are moved to the preferred Extended Gate under the custom’s license of ECT.
• Customs and other formalities are postponed to the inland terminal

Premium Service
• Reliability on the agreed upon arrival time on the Inland terminal
Questions?

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