

## **Fact-finding studies in support of the development of an EU strategy for freight transport logistics.**

### **Lot 1: Analysis of the EU logistics sector**

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Logistics implies the planning, organisation, management, execution and monitoring of the entire material, goods and information flows, from purchasing, production, warehousing, added value services, distribution and reverse logistics. Freight transport logistics in particular covers the planning, organisation, management, execution and monitoring of freight transport operations in the supply chain. Costs, efficiency, reliability, responsiveness and increasingly environmental sustainability are considered key considerations.

The logistics sector plays an important role in the EU economy and is a strong motor for growth and jobs. A considerable number of European companies belong to the worldwide leaders in logistics, in terms of logistics performance EU Member States rank very well.

The logistics sector continuously needs to adapt to new challenges such as outsourcing, just-in-time, spatial re-organisation of production, ecommerce, nearsourcing, fabbing, horizontal collaboration, greening and increasing environmental consciousness, etc.

In 2007 the Commission had adopted a Communication on Freight Transport Logistics, followed by a Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan in 2007. The Communication identified a number of areas for action which should help in improving the overall performance of the logistics sector and in removing bottlenecks and regulatory hurdles, while the Action Plan contained a number of concrete measures aiming eventually at a more sustainable logistics environment. A general assessment of the progress made on the Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan was embedded in the 2011 Transport White Paper. The 2011 Transport White Paper identified a number of initiatives aiming, amongst others, at enhancing the logistics and economic performance of companies and sectors, such as completing the internal market for transport; liberalising freight transport activities and harmonising technical and administrative regulations.

The EU to remain globally competitive requires sustainable and strong EU economies and actors. A pro-active freight transport logistics policy can help in setting the right framework conditions for the logistics sector to further prosper, maintain its global competitiveness and contribute positively to the EU economy. Defining the right approach and measures for such

a policy nevertheless requires a sound knowledge and understanding of the scope, functioning and performance of the logistics sector, but also of the challenges as well as geo-political and economic trends and developments it is faced with.

The overall objective of the study is to contribute to such a knowledge basis and understanding, enabling the development of a mid-to long-term policy strategy for the European freight transport logistics sector. The study shall improve the statistical basis for policy and decision-making and provide relevant data on key parameters such as costs, revenues, employment, etc.

- The study shall look at logistics performance indicators and benchmarks. It shall hereby take into account previous and on-going studies, projects etc.
- The study shall identify trends in logistics and supply chain management at EU and global level, their underlying reasons and economic, environmental and social impacts as well as the challenges they pose to the transport system.
- The study shall assess the actions described in the Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan as regards their relevance today, state of accomplishment and further work required etc.
- The study shall identify and elaborate possible actions following-up on the Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan, but also beyond the Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan, at EU, Member State and sector level and on a mid-to long-term basis. The contractor shall identify policy options and assess potential impacts of both actions and policy options in economic, environmental and social terms.