

Improving European Railways

RETRACK operates a successful pilot between Rotterdam and Hungary. The current focus is on Eurasia rail corridor developments. This will facilitate market opportunities and bring mutual benefits to existing parties and potential parties involved in Eurasian corridor activities.

RETRACK is an integrated project funded by the European Community's Sixth Framework Programme. The consortium comprises market-oriented railway undertakings, logistics service providers, IT- and training specialists, and research and knowledge institutions.

Visit www.retrack.eu for more information.

RETRACK: Reorganisation of Transport networks by advanced Rail freight Concepts

Setting up an Innovative Rail Freight Service between the North Sea and Black Sea and Exploring Potentials for Service Extension to Russia and China

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The project:

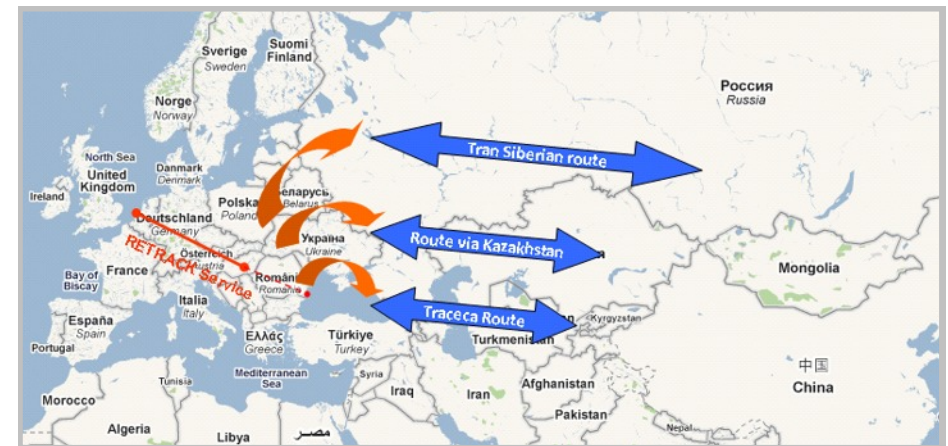
RETRACK has taken the initiative to design, develop and implement a new and innovative trans-European rail freight service concept, which began by setting up service on a West-East corridor, linking major ports of the North Sea and the Black Sea, and by exploring opportunities to extend the service further to Russia and China. A first pilot service between Rotterdam and Hungary started at the beginning of 2010. With this innovative concept and strategically chosen corridor, RETRACK intends to demonstrate that rail freight services along trans-European corridors supported by market liberalisation can be successfully offered as a genuine competitive alternative to road haulage. Besides, the concept implemented in RETRACK shall benefit European shippers, logistics service providers, European society and citizens, upcoming rail freight operators, and the wider logistics industry in Russia and Asia.

Three alternative corridors linking the RETRACK corridor to Russia and China:

Recent trade development has led to a vision towards land-based transport services between Europe, Central Asia, and the far east. Given this and followed by the launch of the pilot service in 2010, RETRACK gives a broader continental perspective by aiming now at the possible connection of existing West-East European corridor onward to Russia and China.

RETRACK intends to explore the potentials for corridor extension to Russia and China through three alternative Eurasian rail routes:

- RETRACK corridor – Trans Siberian corridor – Western China
- RETRACK corridor – Kazakhstan – Western China
- RETRACK corridor – TRACECA – Western China



Along these three routes feasibility studies will be conducted, which include assessing rail freight policy priorities and market developments in Russia and China, probing potentials of linking the three Eurasia land-bridges to the RETRACK corridor, and investigating the feasibility of setting up rail freight services towards Russia and China, as well as the preparation of demonstrations.