

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE MARCO POLO PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

The Marco Polo programme has just completed a first phase of its existence. After four calls for proposals the second Marco Polo programme has entered into force and the first Marco Polo regulation has been repealed. With enlarged scope, EU-27 plus neighbouring countries, and financial muscle, EUR 400 million for 2007/13, the new programme has also higher goals to achieve: instead of shifting 12 billion tkm a year, now the objective is to shift 20 billion tkm. And in order to accomplish this ambitious objective two new kinds of projects have been added to the programme:

- the Motorways of the Sea actions, and
- the Traffic Avoidance actions.

This last kind of projects offers interesting opportunities to road transport operators willing to optimise their freight flows and reduce road congestion.