PRESS RELEASE N°26 / 2010

First "EcoTransIT World Stakeholder Workshop" 5 October at UIC Headquarters

The EcoTransIT consortium successfully opened a platform for the first global online multimodal emissions calculator for international freight transport

(Paris, 6.10.2010). Having successfully launched the global version of the "EcoTransIT" online calculator at the International Transport Forum in Leipzig last May, UIC and the seven EcoTransIT consortium members welcomed more than 100 participants from 50 logistics companies, shippers, scientific and non-governmental organisations to the 1st EcoTransIT Stakeholder Workshop on the 5 October at UIC, Paris.

The EcoTransIT Consortium strongly supports cooperation and partnerships, both between the different modes of transport and with international organisations and institutions – who were all represented at the workshop. The overall objective of the workshop was thus to encourage the alliance of forces and the creation of synergies to develop a sector standard methodology for calculating emissions from logistics and freight transport.

The workshop provided a platform to facilitate dialogue between the whole freight and logistics sector on how best to support 'greening' logistics. It also provided an introduction to the data and methodology behind the online calculator supporting green accounting and green logistics activities.

Parallel sessions invited participants to explore and share their needs and requirements, expectations, and concerns in order to develop a commonly accepted method for carbon footprinting. These sessions were dedicated to marine transport, air transport, shippers' needs and logistics chain. This provided highly useful recommendations for the further developments of EcoTransIT.

EcoTransIT is recognised as a highly credible and scientific tool for freight and logistics transportation in general and is now ready for adaptation to fulfil the needs on company level (i.e. meeting the needs of a freight and logistics provider with specific company level data). Furthermore, EcoTransIT can meet crucial needs such as reliable communication, requirement for green accounting, and reduction of the customer's carbon footprint – while keeping EcoTransIT simple and sophisticated.
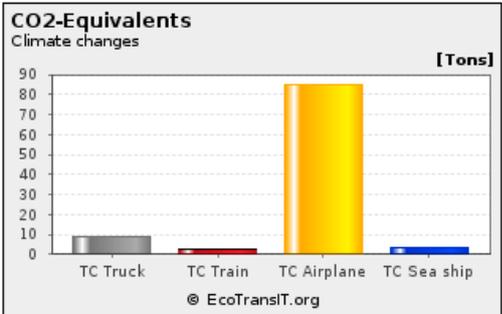
Speakers from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), European Environment Agency (EEA) and the EU project SuperGREEN emphasised various aspects of the importance of measuring carbon footprinting and suggested cooperation between EcoTransIT and several carbon reduction initiatives.

"More and more companies – led by global players – are taking their carbon emissions seriously and recognise the need to minimise them", stated Ulrich Ostermayer, President of the EcoTransIT Consortium. "They believe that freight supply chains offer considerable scope for improving both environmental and economic performance." Furthermore, the European Committee for Standardization is currently developing environmental reporting standards for freight transportation. These standards, which will come into force in spring 2012, are raising awareness of the topic and encouraging companies to define their corporate strategic positions.

Example: transporting a container from Beijing to Paris, Port of Gennevilliers
Any user can take advantage of the online application EcoTransIT World to calculate and compare transport chains. To give an example, the transport of a standard container (TEU = twenty-foot equivalent unit) from Beijing to Paris produces the following results:

- Air transport is the fastest mode, but with very high carbon emissions: a total of 84.7 tonnes CO_2-equivalents including collection and delivery by truck at each end.
- A ship takes longer but has a much lower impact on the environment with 2.6 to 3.7 tonnes CO_2-equivalents (depending on speed).
- A train has the lowest emissions with 2.9 tonnes CO_2-equivalents, including intermodal transfer, even with the same volumes of CO_2 as transport by air and ship for the collection and delivery by truck at each end.

CO2-Equivalents
Climate changes [Tonnes]

	TC Truck	TC Train	TC Airplane	TC Sea ship
Truck	8,988	0	0,046	0,316
Train	0	2,899	0	0
Intermodal transfer	0	0,011	0,007	0,010
Airplane	0	0	84,678	0
Sea ship	0	0	0	3,317
Sum:	8,988	2,909	84,732	3,643

© EcoTransIT.org

For further information, including photos of the event, please visit: www.ecotransit.org

CONTACTS:

Liesbeth de Jong
UIC Media Relations
Tel.: + 33 1 44 49 20 53
e-mail: dejong@uic.org

Delphine Margot
Communications Advisor
Tel. + 33 1 44 49 20 55
e-mail: margot@uic.org

Margrethe Sagevik
Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development
Tel.: + 33 1 44 49 20 35
e-mail: sagevik@uic.org

Note to the editor

EcoTransIT is available for free of charge on the Internet. It is the first online tool to provide the carbon footprint, energy consumption and exhaust gas emissions of logistic chains including all transport modes – on rail, road, water and air – at a global level. It facilitates smart solutions where the advantages in terms of sustainability of different transport modes are used and combined in a single system. It offers open access to forwarders, carriers and logistic service providers and gives reliable, free of charge information on their carbon footprint in accordance with upcoming green accounting standards. The user can enter the starting point, destination and any number of interim stops to visualise various transport combinations and compare their environmental impact. This makes it easier not only to decide which transport chain is the most economical but also which is the most environmentally friendly. Users can quickly and easily calculate the environmental effect of transport routes all over the world.

In addition to logistics customers, EcoTransIT is also aimed at political decision makers and non-governmental organisations. It provides concrete support when analysing the environmental impact of transport, planning of strategies for modal shift and co-modality, and increasing awareness of the consequences of the transport choices we all make every day.