



Commission Européenne - DG TREN

---

*Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of  
the consultation*

Presented by Malcolm Colling,  
Administrator, European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Energy and Transport.

**Logistics Workshop**  
**25 April 2006**  
**Brussels**





Commission Européenne - DG TREN

---

## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

*February 2006*

- *Consultation paper prepared by the Commission services*
- *Sent to 70 identified stakeholders and uploaded onto the DG TREN website*





Commission Européenne - DG TREN

---

## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *April 2006, results of consultation studied*

- *on-line results from DG TREN website*
  - *Comments delivered by e-mail*
  - *Comments sent by hard copy*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *Objective of the consultation.*

- *To assess whether stakeholders consider there to be a need for the EU to develop a policy on logistics;*
- *What should be the strategy for any such policy;*
- *Which areas should the policy address.*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

*Four questions asked in the consultation paper:*

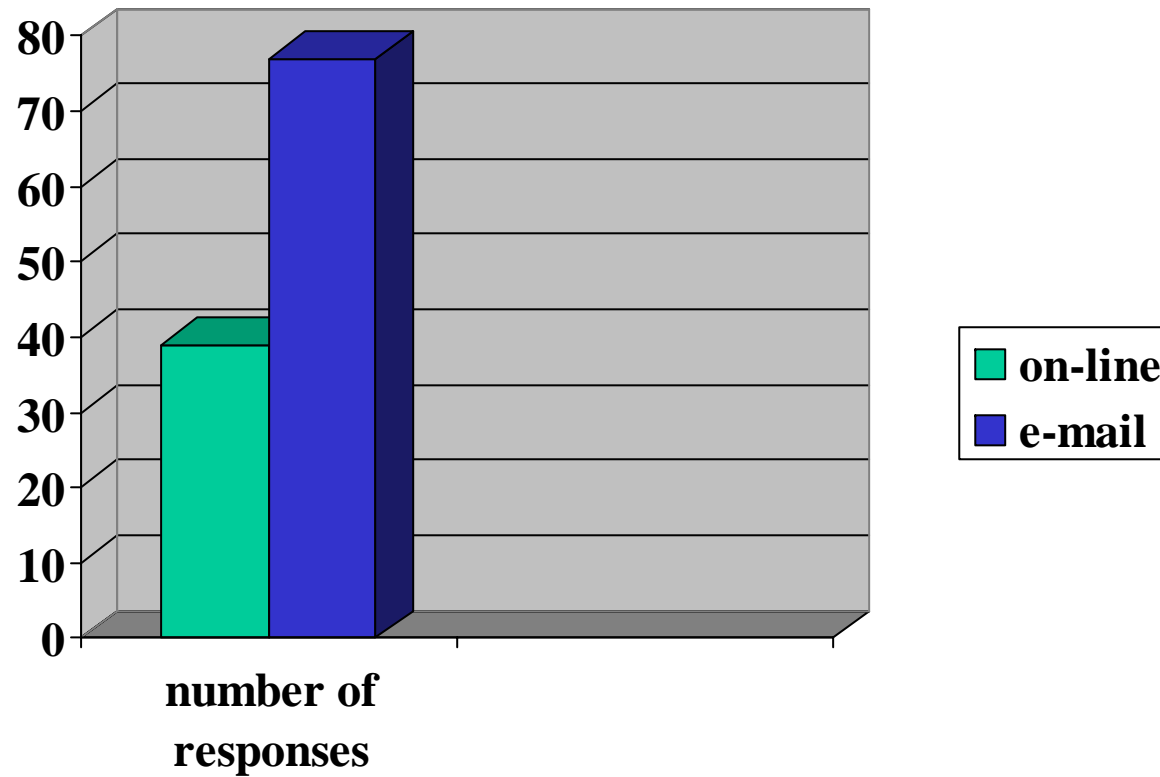
- *Do you agree that the approach chosen by the European Commission to establish **framework conditions** for intermodal logistics is a suitable approach for Europe?*
- *Do you agree with the suggested European **quality approach** to promoting intermodal logistics?*
- *Do you have comments on the individual actions set out?*
- *Any suggestions for actions?*





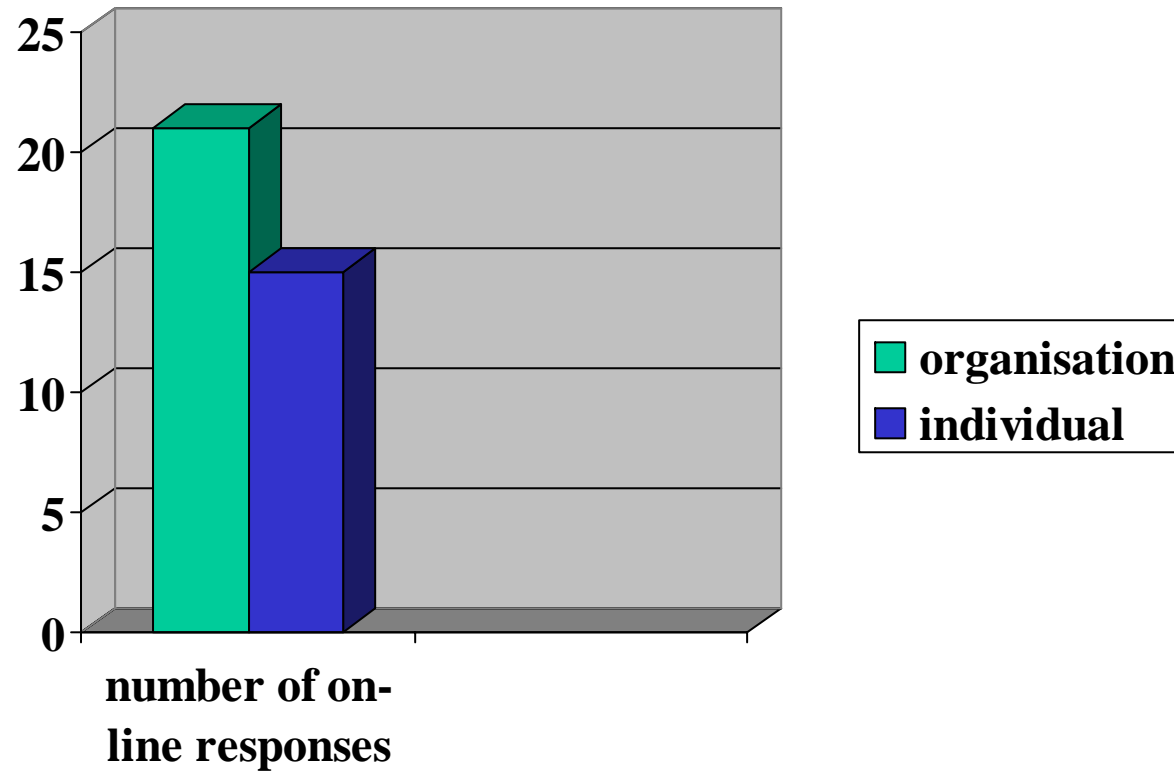
Commission Européenne - DG TREN

## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*





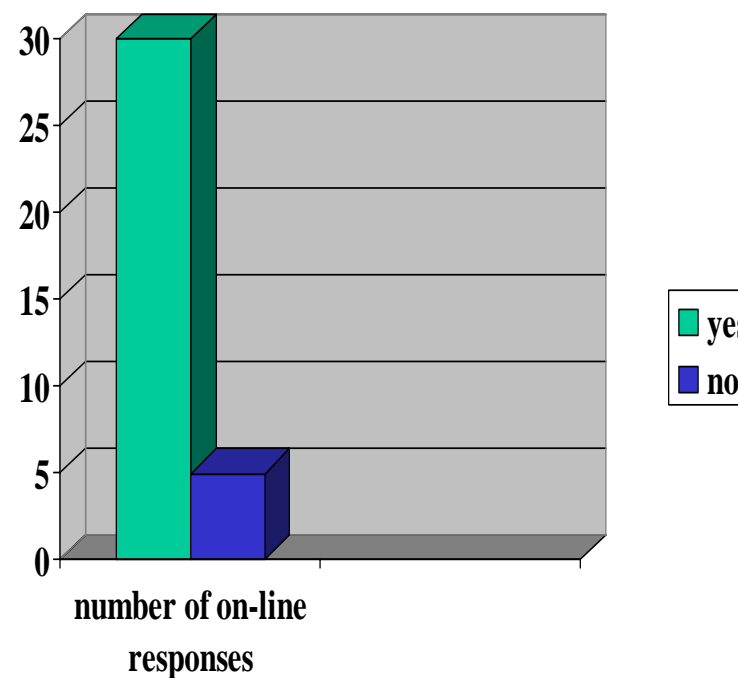
## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

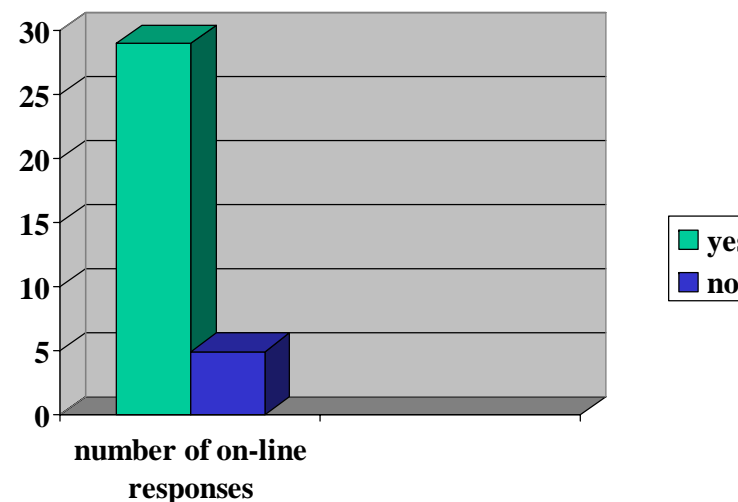
*Do you agree that the approach chosen by the European Commission to establish framework conditions for intermodal logistics is a suitable approach for Europe?*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

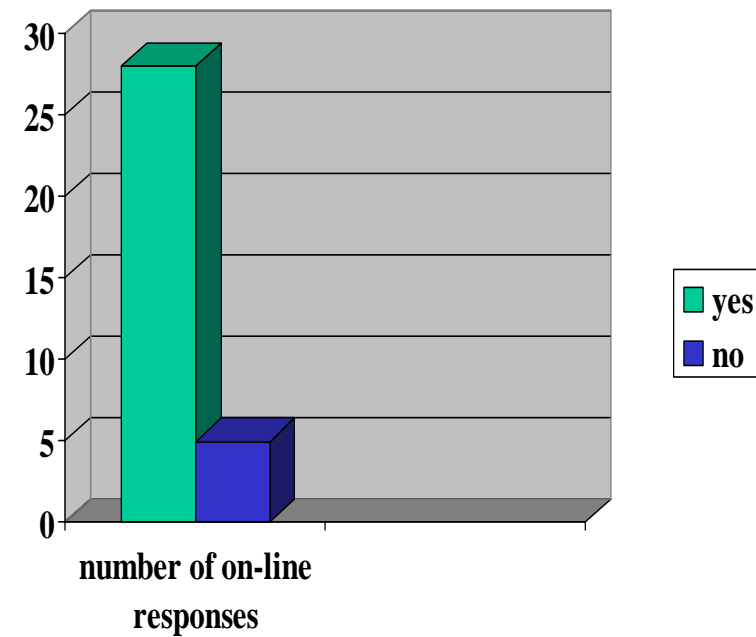
*Do you agree with the suggested European quality approach to promoting intermodal logistics?*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

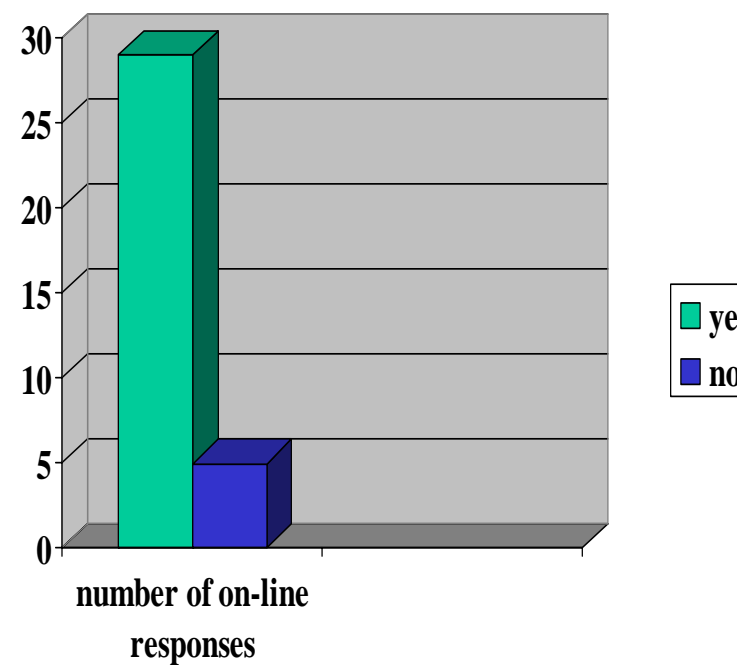
*Should action be taken on  
« certifying quality »?*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

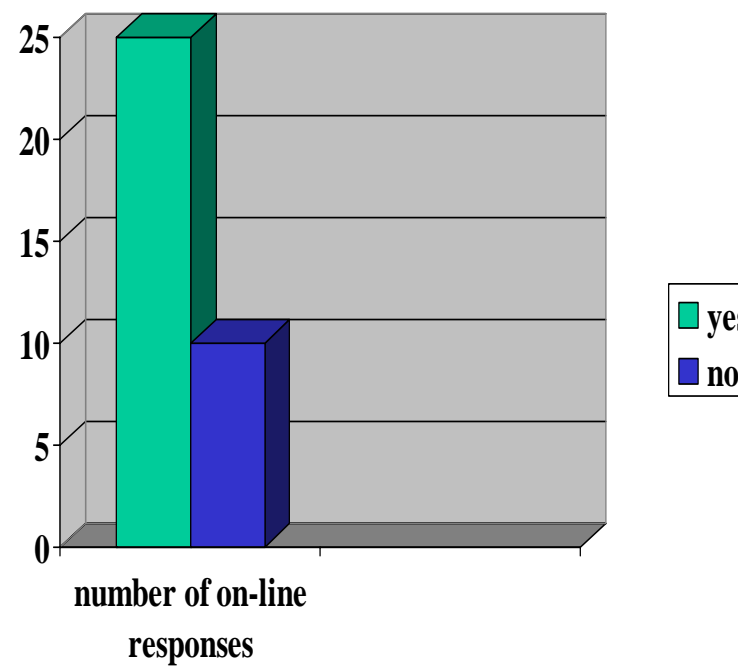
*Should action be taken on  
« multimodal liability »?*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

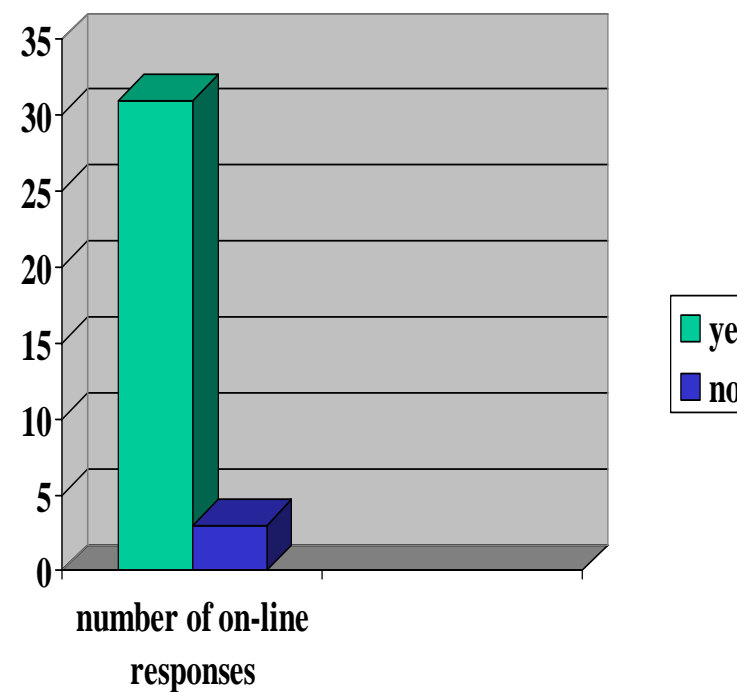
*Should action be taken on « intermodal promotion centres »?*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

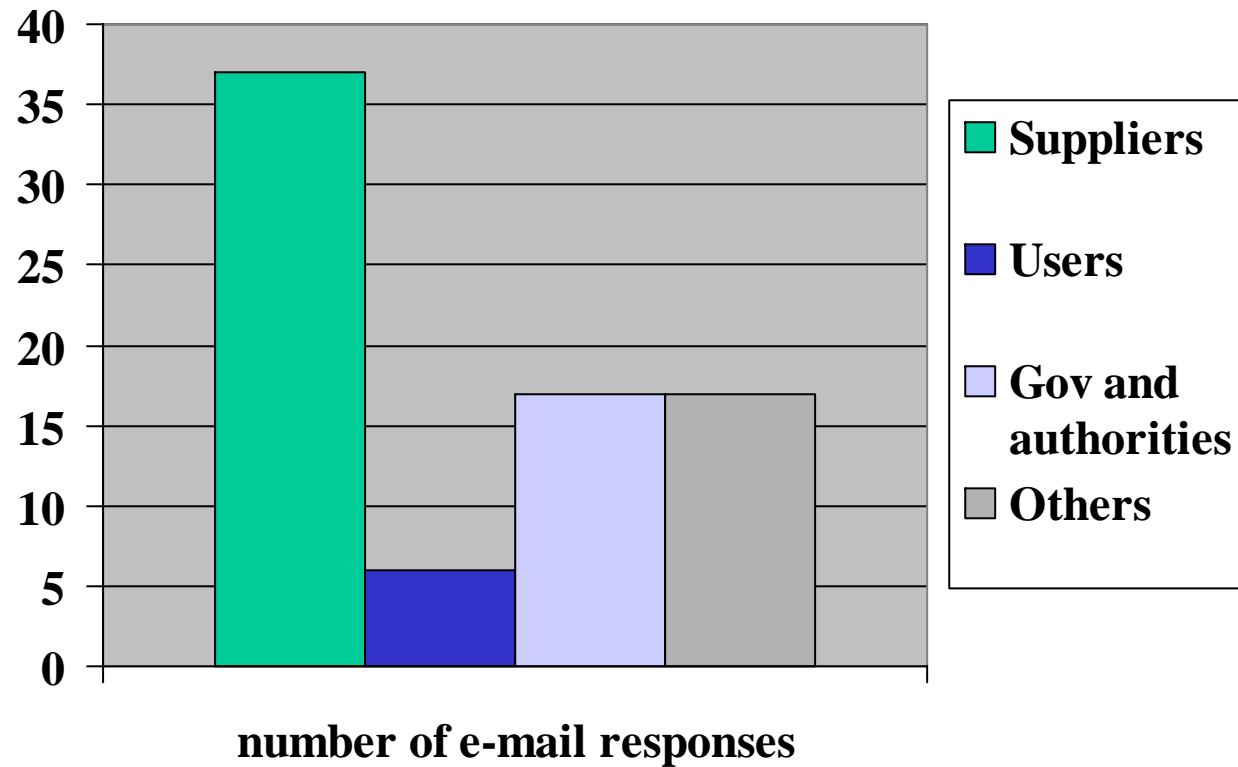
*Should action be taken on  
« a quality dialogue »?*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

Commission Européenne - DG TREN





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *Summary results*

- *Overwhelming support for the strategic approach to create framework conditions (more than 90% of respondents in favour)*
- *Broad, but conditional, support for improving the quality of logistics – “yes to quality but no to certificate proliferation”*
- *Broad, but conditional, support for individual actions.*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *Three general themes for all groups of respondents:*

*Firstly, “... EU policy should be to optimise the transport system, requiring a modal merge instead of a modal shift. A one-sided focus on modal shares ignores the freight decision making process which is characterised by a focus on supply chains, service quality, reliability, and certainly not on modal shares.”*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

*Secondly, “... for supply chains to operate as efficiently as possible, there must be real liberalisation of the railways ...”*

*Thirdly, “...improving service quality across all transport modes must be a common objective. Whether yet another certificate will do this is doubtful. Security certification is a stand-alone, and shouldn't be mixed with service quality.”*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *Comments by “suppliers” of transport services (37 out of 77)*

- *Commonly used terms should only be used – where this is unavoidable then clear definitions should be used to avoid confusion;*
- *Quality approach is desirable, but certification not necessary as a better way is to leave the market to select the best;*
- *Quality approach is desirable, but must avoid duplication and bureaucracy*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

- *Generally recognised that intermodal liability can be a problem, but that the market has a solution in offering multimodal bills of lading and multimodal waybills.*
- *Greater use would be made of non-road transport modes if all modes were treated equally as regards:*
  1. *Taxes*
  2. *Charges*
  3. *Infrastructure costs*
  4. *Social and safety standards*





Commission Européenne - DG TREN

## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

---

- *Yes to benchmarking and bottleneck exercise*
- *Weights and measures of loading units needs further examination – why not keep the 45 foot containers?*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *Comments by “users” of transport services (6 out of 77)*

- *Yes, to improving the quality of the services, but avoid “certificate inflation”*
- *Concern that it is the price of the service that is more important than the quality.*
- *Getting a quality certificate does not always mean the supply of a quality service.*
- *General support for benchmarking and promotional actions.*





Commission Européenne - DG TREN

## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

- *Weights and measures of loading units needs further examination – why not keep the 45 foot containers?*
- *Euro Module System for road transport offers big advantages*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *Comments by “governments, public bodies and international organisations” of transport services (17 out of 77)*

- *General recognition that multimodal liability is a real problem and there is a need for an international regime. Preference to wait for the outcome of the on-going work in UNCITRAL.*
- *“Overall, such a quality framework will establish a high competitive level for EU logistics services in the global economy.”*





Commission Européenne - DG TREN

---

## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

- *An integrated policy on logistics needs an integrated policy on infrastructure development*
- *A successful outcome to the Lisbon Strategy needs a successful EU policy on logistics*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *Comments by “others” (17 out of 77)*

- *Lack of standardisation of loading units becoming a real problem*
- *More infrastructure needed for multimodal transport*
  - *General support for non-legislative measures*
- *Yes to improving quality but doubts that certification is the best way to achieving this*
- *Yes to identifying best practices, benchmarking and co-ordination/dissemination of information.*





Commission Européenne - DG TREN

## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

- *Important to not only develop good transport chains but also good information chains.*
- *Education on intermodal transport needs improving.*





## *Logistics for Promoting Freight Intermodality: results of the consultation*

### *In conclusion:*

- *Overwhelming support for the strategic approach to create framework conditions (more than 90% of respondents in favour)*
- *Broad, but conditional, support for improving the quality of logistics – “yes to quality but no to certificate proliferation”*
- *Broad, but conditional, support for individual actions.*

