



## **Press Information**

13 August 2010

### **Coastlink's 2010 Annual Conference is just a month away**

This year, Coastlink will be holding its 2010 Annual Conference in the Port of Antwerp on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September. In addition to its regular coverage of shortsea shipping as it affects carriers and ports, this year's event will have a strong rail and inland waterway theme running through it.

Coastlink's Chairman, David Cheslin, explains this:

"Many of our members and regular conference delegates are now thinking much more about the inland aspects of multimodal transport. Shortsea carriers and terminal operators are no longer primarily focused on maritime matters.

"Shippers now want integrated green solutions for their door-to-door transport. Carriers, for example, have to work closely with their chosen maritime terminals, rail and barge companies, with inland terminals serving barge and train operators and with local truckers if they are going to provide the door to door service standards their customers require. It only takes one link in the chain to fail and the customer will run back to the international road transport operators."

Also driving the multimodal market is the growing importance of Eastern Europe, says Cheslin:

"So much media attention is focused on China that we perhaps overlook the increasing volumes of manufactured goods coming into Northern Europe and the Baltic region from Eastern Europe. Initially much of this was trucked but with rising wage levels, the increasing cost of diesel and the effects of the European Working Time Directive, rail and all-water solutions are becoming more attractive.

"We have seen recently that shortsea shipping can now match and even beat road transit times from places like North Africa and the south of Spain, leading importers of fresh produce to demand more reefer capacity, in 45ft palletwides if possible."

The latest programme for the conference can be downloaded from  
[http://www.coastlink.co.uk/calendar\\_of\\_events.htm](http://www.coastlink.co.uk/calendar_of_events.htm)

**Diary entry:**

Coastlink 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 14/15 September 2010, Port of Antwerp, Havenhuis, Entrepotkaai, Antwerp, Belgium. [www.coastlink.co.uk](http://www.coastlink.co.uk).

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