
Meeting of the Working Group on South American Rail Integration

July 13, 2017

Radisson Victoria Plaza

Plaza Independencia 759

Montevideo – Uruguay

1. BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN), held in Brasília on November 30, 2011, the COSIPLAN Ministries agreed to create the Working Group on South American Rail Integration. In the next COSIPLAN Ordinary Meeting (Lima, 2012), the Republic of Uruguay was appointed President of the Working Group on Rail Integration.

This Working Group takes as a starting point the actions carried out by Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay for the design of the API project known as Paranaguá-Antofagasta Bioceanic Railway Corridor. It features two Working Subgroups (WSG) concerned with two API projects: i) the Subgroup on the Paranaguá-Antofagasta Bioceanic Railway Corridor (Argentina-Brazil-Chile-Paraguay), and ii) the Subgroup on the Central Bioceanic Railway Corridor (Bolivia-Brazil-Peru).

In 2016, resources from the UNASUR Common Initiatives Fund (CIF) were approved to conduct a “Study to provide input for drafting a strategy to facilitate South American Rail Integration” under the coordination of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay.

To initiate the work, a videoconference was held on March 3, during which the participants laid down the basis for the collection of the information required to carry out the study.

The countries selected by consensus the consulting team that conducted the study. On the basis of the material gathered, the consultants drafted a first progress report that was presented at the videoconference held on September 30. On that occasion, the countries agreed on the next steps required to have the work completed by the end of the year.

A meeting of the Working Group on Rail Integration was included as part of the COSIPLAN Work Plan 2017 in order to present the results of the study, discuss its recommendations and decide on the next steps in terms of the rail integration prospects in the region.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

- I. Present and validate the results of the Study to provide input for drafting a strategy to facilitate South American Rail Integration.
- II. Exchange experiences on the existing rail connectivity and the rail connectivity projects underway.
- III. Define the next steps of the Working Group in relation to the recommendations of the study and the COSIPLAN Portfolio projects.

3. PARTICIPANTS

National Coordinators, government officials concerned with planning and rail transportation issues and representatives of the UNASUR General Secretariat are expected to participate in the meeting.

4. PRELIMINARY AGENDA

09:00-09:15 **Registration of Participants**

09:15-09:45 **Opening Session and Objectives of the Meeting**

COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore held by Argentina:

Atilio Alimena, National Director of International Territorial Integration Planning, Argentina's Ministry of the Interior, Public Works and Housing

COSIPLAN-IIRSA National Coordination of Uruguay and Working Group President:

Pablo Genta, National Director of Planning and Logistics, Uruguay's Ministry of Transport and Public Works

BLOCK 1 | STUDY ON SOUTH AMERICAN RAIL INTEGRATION

09:45-10:30 **Presentation of the "Study to provide input for drafting a strategy to facilitate South American Rail Integration"**

Lecturer: Roberto Agosta and Juan Pablo Martínez, consultants

Comments by the delegations present

10:30-11:30 **Analysis of the recommendations included in the study for the potential corridors identified**

Lecturer: Pablo Genta, National Director of Planning and Logistics, Uruguay's Ministry of Transport and Public Works

Comments by the delegations of the countries involved in these corridors

11:30-11:45 **Coffee Break**

BLOCK 2 | INTEGRATION RAIL CORRIDORS

- 11:45-12:45** **Presentation on the Salta – Socompa – Antofagasta Rail Corridor (Argentina – Chile)**
- Investments made in Argentina for the rehabilitation of the Antofagasta-Socompa-Salta connection. A bilateral traffic experience.**
- Lecturers: Carmen Polo, Argentina's Under-Secretary of Freight Transport and Logistics Planning, and Guillermo de Villafañe, agent of Belgrano Cargas y Logística SA.*
- Advances in the operation of the Antofagasta-Socompa-Salta corridor**
- Lecturers: Carlos Acuña, Commercial Manager of the Railroad from Antofagasta to Bolivia (FCAB); and Cristián Matínez Salvo, Commercial Manager of FERRONOR S.A.*
- High Mountain Railway Transport: Study of the C14 Salta – Socompa section (a branch of the Belgrano Cargas Railway) and a recent experience in Austria**
- Lecturer: Martin Böfer, GEOCONSULT.*
- Comments by the delegations present*
- 12:45-13:00** **Group Photograph**
- 13:00-14:30** **Lunch**
- 14:30-15:00** **Presentation on the Trasandino del Sur Railway**
- Lecturer: Daniel Urioste, Director of the Rail Transport Department, Chile's Ministry of Transport*
- 15:00-16:00** **Presentation on the Integration Bioceanic Rail Corridor (Brazil - Bolivia - Peru)**
- Progress report on the investment studies to connect the eastern and western lines in Bolivia
 - Results of the study to select connectivity alternatives for the rail corridor in Peru
 - Investment prospects in the Pacific port selected
 - Operational status of the railway in Brazil and investment needs identified
 - Rail project to connect Paraguay to the corridor
 - Analysis of the technical and operational issues for freight transportation along the rail corridor
- Bolivia: Marco Antonio Delgadillo Rojas, Director-General of the Inland, Inland Waterway, and Lake Transport, Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing.*
- Brazil: Daniel Rossi, Consultant.*
- Paraguay: Guido Benza Roggio, Director of International Affairs of the Deputy Ministry of Transport of the Ministry of Public Works and Communications.*
- Comments by the delegations present*
- 16:00-16:15** **Coffee Break**

BLOCK 3 | WORKING GROUP'S NEXT STEPS

- 16:15-16:45** **Dialogue of the delegations present on the next steps to be taken by the Working Group**
Moderator: Pablo Genta, National Director of Planning and Logistics, Uruguay's Ministry of Transport and Public Works
- 16:45-17:00** **Conclusions**
COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore held by Argentina:
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