

Meeting of the Working Group on South American Rail Integration

September 26, 2013

Santiago, Chile

1. BACKGROUND

Within the framework of the “Second Ministerial Meeting of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN)”, held in Brasilia on November 30, 2011, COSIPLAN Ministers agreed to create the Working Group on South American Rail Integration.

Pursuant to COSIPLAN Agreement N° 3/2011 (Brasilia – November 30, 2011), delegates agreed: 1) to create a Working Group on South American Rail Integration, (2) to incorporate to the Working Group mentioned the Working Group on Argentina-Brazil-Chile-Paraguay Bioceanic Rail Integration, the previous work of which would constitute the starting point for its future tasks, (3) to make use of the results obtained by the Working Group on Argentina-Brazil-Chile-Paraguay Bioceanic Rail Integration to develop and integrate other South American rail networks in further stages, and (4) to instruct the holding of regular meetings of the Working Group, as well as to request the presentation of its activity reports at the COSIPLAN Ministerial Meetings.

Within the framework of the Third Ordinary Meeting of COSIPLAN (Lima, November 16, 2012), COSIPLAN Ministers appointed by consensus the Republic of Uruguay as President of the Working Group on Rail Integration and approved the COSIPLAN Work Plan 2013. Action 1.2 of the Work Plan provides for the conduction of a diagnostic study on transport infrastructure networks in South America, for which purpose a Working Group meeting should be organized to assess the progress made and the advances expected with regard to the Bioceanic Rail Corridor (BRC) and to gain insight into other binational and multinational rail initiatives in the region.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Report the status of rail projects included in the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio (API individual and structured projects).
- Assess the progress made and the advances expected with regard to the Bioceanic Rail Corridor (BRC).

- Identify other binational and multinational rail initiatives and assess likely connections to the BRC.
- Agree on the next steps toward the development of South American Rail Integration.

3. EXPECTED RESULTS

- Dissemination of the status of COSIPLAN rail projects
- Identification of the difficulties to overcome
- Identification of strategies to attain rail integration goals, on the basis of the progress made by the Working Group on Argentina-Brazil-Chile-Paraguay Bioceanic Rail Integration
- Proposal of activities for COSIPLAN Work Plan 2014

4. PARTICIPANTS

IIRSA National Coordinators as well as officials concerned with rail transport and planning as well as CCT representatives.

5. PRELIMINARY AGENDA

09:30-09:45 **Opening of the GTE Meeting**

*Lucas Palacios Covarrubias, Under-Secretary of Public Works of Chile
COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore, held by Chile*

09:45-10:00 **Objectives and Expected Results**

Pablo Genta, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay – Presidency of the Working Group on Rail Integration

10:00-10:30 **Rail Projects within the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio**

- Their impact on the general COSIPLAN Portfolio
- Medium- and long-term strategies

Lecturer: Beatriz Tabacco – Presidency of the Working Group on Rail Integration

10:30-11:30 **Status of Individual Rail Projects within the COSIPLAN Project Portfolio**

- Critical analysis by Integration and Development Hub
 - Location on maps
 - Objective – status – km – gage – estimated date of completion
 - Complementary information needs

Lecturer: Beatriz Tabacco – Presidency of the Working Group on Rail Integration

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

11:45-12:00 **Status of Rail Projects within COSIPLAN API**

- Critical analysis by Integration and Development Hub
 - Location on maps
 - Objective – status – km – gage – estimated date of completion
 - Complementary information needs

- *Lecturer: Beatriz Tabacco – Presidency of the Working Group on Rail Integration*

12:00- 12:45 **Q&A and Contributions**

National Coordinations

Moderator: Pablo Genta, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay

12:45-14:15 **Lunch**

14:15-14:45 **Progress Made and Advances Expected with Regard to the Bioceanic Rail Corridor**

- Background
- Summary of the report financed by BNDES

Lecturer: Beatriz Tabacco – Presidency of the Working Group on Rail Integration

14:45- 16:15 **Debate on Binational and Multinational Rail Initiatives**

- A critical analysis of the Bioceanic Rail Corridor study
- Identifying regional benefits from rail integration based on portfolio projects selected by consensus; identification of complementary projects and actions
- Evaluating the advisability of connecting new systems to the BRC
- Evaluating the need for conducting studies similar to the study on BRC

National Coordinations

Moderator: Pablo Genta, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay

16:15-16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30-17:30 **Debate on the Next Steps toward South American Rail Integration**

National Coordinations

Moderator: Pablo Genta, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Uruguay

17:30-18:00 **Considerations relating to the Notes and Closing Session**

*Pablo Manterola, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, Chile
COSIPLAN Presidency Pro Tempore, held by Chile*