

In 2011 Hupac transported approximately 725,000 road shipments by rail

Intermodal shift requires efficient infrastructures

Chiasso, 31.1.2012 – In 2011 combined transport operator Hupac achieved a 6.6% increase in its transport volume. The sluggish expansion in international railway infrastructures is cause for concern, however.

Transport volume In the past year, combined transport operator Hupac of Switzerland moved a total of 723,894 road shipments by rail. While two-digit growth rates were achieved in the first semester, business declined sharply in the fall as a result of another economic downturn. The strongest growth was generated by transalpine transports via Austria. A factor contributing substantially to the success of this was the clearance gauge on the Brenner axis, which makes the transport of modern, high-volume semi-trailers with a corner height of 4 meters possible. Non-transalpine transports comprising the Benelux-Austria/Hungary/Romania, Benelux-Poland/Russia and Belgium-France/Spain routes added to the positive result with an increase of 12.6%. Hupac's core business, transalpine transports through Switzerland, was up modestly by 1.8%. Storms, strikes and line closures due to accidents had a negative impact on the result.

Infrastructures - later, fewer, not at all? Hupac welcomes the pragmatic and realistic approach of the 2011 intermodal shift report of the Swiss Federal Office of Transport and expects that the targeted shift volume will be attained quickly by taking specific measures. However, Hupac noted with concern that the freight traffic route Bellinzona-Luino-Novara, which accommodates 80% of unaccompanied combined transports via Gotthard, is gradually disappearing from the sight of the international infrastructure strategists. Urgently required improvements allowing significant advancements in productivity with a minimum of resources, such as the extension of passing rails, are being shelved. For the construction of a 4-meter corridor, on the other hand, the route via Chiasso is given preference, regardless of the fact that the existing major terminals in Novara and Busto Arsizio-Gallarate are not accessible via this line. According to Hupac's managing director Bernhard Kunz "this depreciates the investments of the past twenty years on the Luino route." Establishing equivalent infrastructures for combined transports along the Chiasso route is expected to require considerable investments and very long time. Kunz added: "If freight traffic infrastructures are developed according to the principle 'later, fewer, not at all' we will not see any progress in intermodal shift. A 4-meter corridor on the Luino route for the current transport volume has top priority and the Chiasso route has second priority for future transports."

Transport development	2011	2010	in %
<i>Number of road shipments</i>			
Transalpine via CH	431,923	424,176	1.8
Transalpine via A	53,053	42,792	24.0
Total transalpine	484,976	466,968	3.9
Non-transalpine	238,918	212,098	12.6
Total traffic	723,894	679,066	6.6

Hupac's Profile Hupac is the leading intermodal transport operator through the Swiss Alps and one of the market leaders in Europe. The company works to ensure that an increasing volume of goods can be transported by rail and not by road, thus contributing to modal shift and environment protection. With a workforce of 400 employees, Hupac operates a network of more than 110 trains each day between Europe's main economic areas and between the harbors and the hinterlands. In 2011, Hupac's transport volume was 725,000 road shipments on rails. The company's wagon fleet consists of 5,500 wagon modules. The Hupac Group comprises ten companies based in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Russia. Hupac was founded in Chiasso in 1967 and has 100 shareholders. The share capital amounts to CHF 20 million; 72% of this belongs to logistics and transport companies, while 28% is held by rail companies, thus guaranteeing closeness to the market and independence from the railway companies.

Media contact: Irmtraut Tonndorf, Communications Manager, Tel. +41 91 6952936 itonndorf@hupac.ch