Liege Airport plans to build "trimodal railport"

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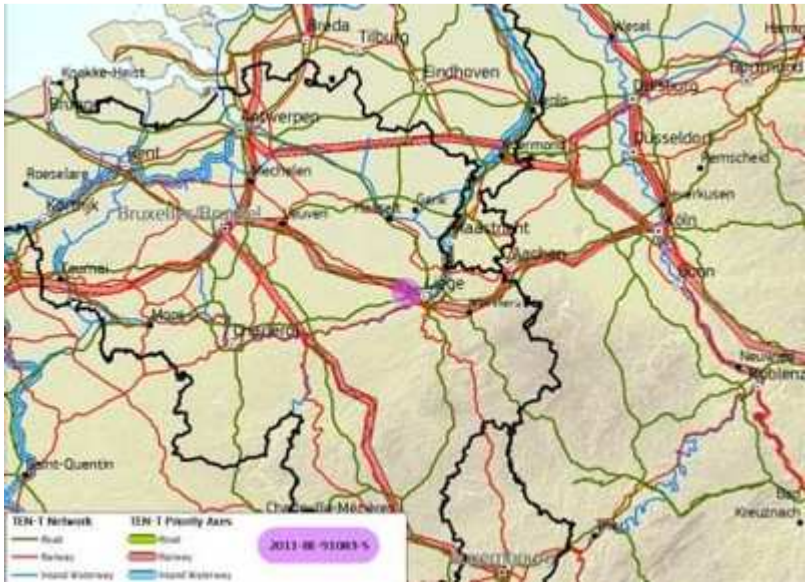
Author: *Dominic Welling*



Liege Airport has unveiled plans to become a fully intermodal facility capable of seamlessly transferring freight across air, road and rail.

Ultimately connected to the already existing European high-speed networks between Lyon, Paris, Amsterdam and London, the new intermodal platform is expected to cost a total of €2.2 million and be part funded by the EU Trans European Network – Transport (TEN-T) programme.

The EU has committed to contribute €1.1 million (50%) to the ultimate cost, which will be spent on a series of initial studies.

The project, which was selected for funding under the 2011 TEN-T Annual Call, will be realised by Liège CAREX - a body part of the broader Euro CAREX network which includes Lyon, Paris, London and Amsterdam - and aims to improve intermodal transport and, in particular, shift freight from air and road to rail mode.

The project is expected to constitute a link in the future European express rail freight network, travelling on the high-speed lines and offering a viable alternative to short-distance intra-European flights and to express road freight.

The EU studies will cover all technical and financial aspects, and form the basis for the future construction works of the Liège Railport.

The project will be managed by the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency and is set to be completed by November 2014.

Currently, long distance express and conventional airfreight arriving in European airports

must be redistributed throughout Europe according to each customer's distribution networks.

Short distance air transport and road transport are the only possibilities for distribution, at a European scale, in line with both the freight volumes handled and the specific requirements of freight.

The CAREX project represents a high-speed railway alternative, capable of fulfilling the strictest requirements of airfreight, while considerably reducing the impact of the pre- and post-air transport concerned.