



## The Association of European Vehicle Logistics

### ECG in milestone achievement as Finnlines becomes the 100<sup>th</sup> member

#### The 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Association elects a new board

*Members were presented the ECG Carbon Calculator, a breakthrough tool to report CO2 emission in finished vehicle logistics*

**Bruxelles – 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2008** – On the occasion of its 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly ECG, the Association of European Finished Vehicle Logistics, has achieved a milestone in its history as membership hit 100 companies, based in as many as 24 countries ranging geographically from the European coast of the Atlantic Ocean to Russia and Turkey.

In the course of the same event, that was held in Helsinki, Finland, last Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the ECG members voted the new board governing the association. During the afternoon section, opened to external experts who addressed the key topics of the industry, the ECG president Frits Mehrtens presented the first preview of the ECG CARBON CALCULATOR, a breakthrough software tool allowing Logistics Service Providers (LSPs) to calculate the quantity of CO2 gas emitted in the atmosphere per each car transported in the whole of Europe, either by road, railway or sea. The ECG Carbon Calculator will allow LSPs to establish their own Environmental Management Systems aiming to enforce an environmental friendly policy based on reducing the level of CO2 emissions. The President also used the event to thank outgoing Board member, STVA's Alain Leray for his great contribution to the board and honoured him by presenting him with a golden ECG lapel pin.

The much awaited 100<sup>th</sup> member was Finnlines, the Helsinki-based Ro/Ro shipping group listed on the Finnish Stock market that is part of the wider Grimaldi Group of Italy. In the course of a ceremony to mark the event, the ECG President, Mr Mehrtens handed over a commemorative crest to Mr Simon Airas, President, Baltic and North Sea Liner Services of Finnlines. Finnlines is the leading Ro/Ro operator in the Baltic and market leader in Ro/Ro traffic from Germany to Russia. It operates 40 Ro/Ro ships and port terminals at Helsinki, Turku, Naantali, Kotka and Kantvik. With an annual turnover of 685 million euros, the group has more than 2.300 employees.

ECG membership has grown remarkably over the last five years, with members more than doubling. Also, during the first five months of 2008 seven companies joined the association. New members are mainly from those Eastern European countries that joined the European Union in recent years as well as from Russia, that is proving to be the most important new market for the whole of automotive industry, but also from Western European countries such as Germany and Italy.

"I'm delighted to welcome the 22 new members that have joined ECG in the 12 months since the last General Assembly - said the ECG president Frits Mehrtens, and I'm pleased to welcome Finnlines as our 100<sup>th</sup> member. Such a success in attracting new members shows how much the industry appreciates the dynamic attitude of ECG in supporting the development of the business as a whole. ECG has indeed become a common platform for those LSPs and OEMs whose aim is to address all the non-commercial issues that have an impact on the level of efficiency of the industry. "

ECG's problem solving approach to favour the development of a more efficient and environmental friendly industry, was once again proved when Mr Mehrtens introduced to the assembly the ECG Carbon Calculator, an IT tool conceived to allow logistics service provider to measure the level of CO2 emission and report them to the Manufacturers. The ECG Carbon Calculator is based on the hard data contained in a scientific study commissioned to the Friends of the Earth (Italy) to assess the level of CO2 emissions in Europe per car/km transported by sea, rail and road. The software which will make the results of such a scientific study in everyday business life is being developed by Vehnet.

The ECG General Assembly was attended by some 120 delegates who also elected the board of the association. The new board includes 4 new entries - **Mr. Jean-Michel Floret** (Groupe STVA, France), **Mr. Heinrich-Wilhelm Averweser**, (BLG Logistics Automobile, Germany); **Mr. Eduardo Estévez Macarro** (Bergé Automotive Logistics, Spain), while 6 members from the previous board have been confirmed their position - **Mr. Arnaud Cauchy**, (GEFCO, France); **Mr. İlhan Çetinkaya**, (İLÇE, Turkey); **Mr. Wolfgang Göbel**, (Horst Mosolf, Germany); **Mr. Veli-Matti Pärssinen**, (Avelon Vehicle Logistics Group, Finland); **Mr. Marek Nowicki** (P.W. Wega A., Poland); **Mr. Jacinto Sequi** (Autoterminal Barcelona, Spain).

This is in addition the ECG president **Frits Mehrtens** and the Vice-President, **Mr. Costantino Baldissara** (Grimaldi Group, Italy) whose two year term expires in 2009.

The ECG Annual Assembly was sponsored by) Russian Transport Lines and Kaessbohrer Transport Technik (Main sponsors); Avelon Vehicle Logistics Group, Finnlines, Akzo Nobel, Vernet, Transics, Renault Trucks, Quintiq and SE Makkinen Logistics (Co-sponsors)

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*Picture Caption: The ECG President Mr. Frits Mehrtens, Managing Director of Broekman Automotive hands the commemorative crest for the 100<sup>th</sup> member of ECG to Mr Simon Airas, President, Baltic and North Sea Liner Services, representative of Finnlines, a Grimaldi Group Company*