The Free State of Saxony promotes an efficient rail infrastructure

The Free State of Saxony is highly dependent on operative transport connections to the EU domestic market just as to the neighbouring countries of the European Union.

In the last years, Saxony has benefited significantly from EU trade together with globalization of economic processes:
- In 2014, the export of Saxony reached a merchandise value of 35.91 billion euros. The export ratio was 33.7%.
- The import of goods to Saxony increased from 3.8 billion euros in 1995 to 20.62 billion euros in 2014.
- Saxony has a high attractiveness as a region of tourism and research as well as an investment location. In 2014, Saxony had with 18.6% the highest investment ratio of all federal states in Germany.

A key condition for further intensification of economic and social relationship with eastern and south-eastern neighbouring countries is the improved integration of Saxony in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

The study has been finalized in time at the end of December 2015. It has concerned preparatory studies that covered the cross-border section between Heidenau (DE) and Ústí nad Labem as well as the continuation to Prague. Investigations concerning environment and settlement as well as operational, geological, legal and time requirements for the new high speed railway line have been performed. Thus an optimization of the previous route has been achieved. The geophysical analyses were thereby carried out by the Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology. The optimized route considers primarily the criteria of minimal potential for conflicts and is widely by-passing residential and ecologically sensitive areas.

Furthermore DB Netz AG has drawn up a Scope of Traffic for the section Dresden – Ústí n.l.N., These documents confirm the basic objectives of Saxony for this new routing. For example, travel time on the new route between Dresden and Ústí n.l.N. (CZ) will be reduced by about 12% for freight transport and by almost two-thirds for passenger transport. Passenger transport can be realised every hour.

New railway line Dresden – Prague

The Free State of Saxony and the Czech Republic support the construction of a new high speed railway line outside the Elbe Valley between Dresden and Ústí nad Labem with a further continuation towards Prague.

The Free State of Saxony has already carried out the following preparatory activities:
- Feasibility study (2008)
- Potential analysis and support for cost – benefit analysis (2010)
- Analysis of track routing options (2011 / 2012)

The objectives of the new railway line are – to reduce travel time in passenger transport from currently more than two hours to one hour between Dresden and Prague, to increase capacity for freight transport, to reduce noise in the Elbe Valley as well as to provide a flood-safe connection to the Czech Republic. Furthermore regional passenger traffic will be decongested from long-distance passenger traffic. Freight traffic ex Heidenau-South at the Elbe Valley route.

Contents of TEN-T Study: „Preliminary Planning Services new high speed rail line Dresden – Prague“