



WHAT IS BESTUFS?

BESTUFS (BEST Urban Freight Solutions) is a Thematic Network (TN) addressing all aspects of urban freight transport. The aim of BESTUFS is establishing and maintaining an open European network between urban freight transport experts, user groups/associations, ongoing projects, interested cities, the relevant European Commission Directorate Generals and representatives of national transport administrations in order to identify, describe and disseminate best practices, success criteria and bottlenecks with respect to the movement of goods in urban areas. This Thematic Network is operated with and funded by the European Commission in the Fifth Framework Programme under the Key Action "Competitive and Sustainable Growth". The BESTUFS project started in 2000 with a duration of 4 years. Anyone who wishes to participate in BESTUFS events or to receive information should contact the administration centre (bestufs@nea.nl).



LONDON CONGESTION CHARGES COMMENCES

Monday 17 February was "D-Day" for the start of congestion charging in Central London. The "C-Zone" (Charging Zone), operates 07.00 - 18.30 from Monday to Friday.

Commercial vehicles have to register separately from other road users under the London Congestion Charge Fleet Scheme. Fixed cameras photograph all vehicles entering the C-Zone after which an invoice for the total usage by the operator is raised separately.

Following the first month of the schemes operation the main issues with the congestion charge appear to be at an administrative level. The Scheme has created a great deal of extra paperwork for operators. Delivery vehicle drivers do report improved traffic conditions within the charge zone. However, these are offset by worsened conditions outside of the zone. The Freight Transport Association believes that since few vehicles are actually based inside the zone, there appears to be no net traffic benefit.

Many other cities watched to see the positive and negative aspects of the scheme with a view to adopting it themselves. Approval has already been registered by policymakers from Tokyo, Hong Kong, Copenhagen, Genoa, Helsinki, Brisbane and Amsterdam. For further information about the Scheme please visit www.cclondon.com

FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION CAMPAIGN

The Freight Transport Association (FTA), is campaigning for an exemption of the congestion charge for commercial vehicles. The FTA believes that "measures to reduce the number of commercial vehicles working in London have long since been exhausted - the only reason they work in the congestion zone is because goods and services have to be delivered and there is no choice but to get them there in a road going vehicle". The estimated cost of the congestion charge to industry delivering and servicing in London is approximately £160 million a year. A .pdf of the paper "Delivering in London" can be downloaded at www.fta.co.uk/information/key_campaigns/congestion/index.htm



FREIGHTFORWARD EUROPE (FFE) INTEREST GROUP

FreightForward Europe is an interest grouping of ten of the largest global forwarders and logistics providers with a commitment to contributing to solutions that keep urban transport sustainable. FreightForward Europe seeks to reinforce the common interests of the whole forwarding and logistics industry: ensuring the organisation of all logistics services with the supply chain as well as providing the best cost-quality relationship. Casting itself as a bridgehead for the industry, the actions of FreightForward Europe are in support of the existing national and international associations of freight forwarders. Their website at www.freightforwardeurope.org is a very useful resource and worth a visit.

EUROPEAN TRANSPORT FORUM

There is an exciting new European Transport Forum offering an online information service that aggregates information concerning European transport as well as providing a platform to all leading players in transport to debate key issues. The European Transport Forum is based in the heart of Brussels close to all of the EU Institutional activity. If you are interested in reading more visit www.transportforum.com.



BESTUFS REPRESENTED AT THE CLEARZONES EXHIBITION/CONFERENCE



The 4th Annual Clear Zones Conference was held on 5th March 2003 in Bristol, United Kingdom. The title of the Conference was "Innovation in Urban Goods Delivery". The conference was chaired in a lively fashion by Steven Norris, London Mayoral candidate, and featured

talks by Mark Major of Directorate General - Transport, European Commission and others familiar to BESTUFS such as the Freight Transport Association. ARRC exhibited both the BESTUFS and CITY FREIGHT projects and the new BESTUFS CD-Rom was available for delegates. The Department for Transport took the opportunity to launch its new Good Practice Guide on Freight Quality Partnerships along with a demonstration of urban delivery vehicles. Further information about the Clear Zones project can be accessed at www.clearzones.org.uk

EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK IS LAUNCHED

European Mobility Week was recently launched by Ms Margot Wallström, Commissioner for the Environment and will run from 16 to 22nd September 2003. Any Local Authority can participate on condition that they take part in the highlight of the week which is the Car Free Day on 22 September 2003. The themes of the Charter is sustainable mobility, pollution reduction, noise abatement and the future of our cities and towns. The official European website for European Mobility Week can be accessed on



www.mobilityweek-europe.org





BESTUFS CD NOW AVAILABLE

Dissemination is an important activity to BESTUFS and as part of this activity a CD has been produced and is ready for distribution. The CD gives a brief background to BESTUFS and details of our activities up to February 2003. The CD also has information about links to the website and newsletters. Also detailed are agendas and minutes for 9 interesting workshops with a wide range of relevant urban freight topics.

This comprehensive CD also has presentations from Conferences held in Barcelona and Paris; Best Practice Handbooks and the results of Clustering Reports; recommendations for further activities and additional reports and material. For a copy of the BESTUFS CD please send an email to request a copy to the Urban Freight Unit to c.henery@sheffield.ac.uk

CITY LOGISTICS CO-ORDINATION ACTION

The European Commission plans to establish a City Logistics Co-ordination action to continue after the end of the current BESTUFS project (2004), which will cover the period 2004 - 2008. Further information can be found at the following link to the FP6 work programme <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/sustdev.htm>

ZURICH: CARGO TRAM FOR BULK RUBBISH PICK UP

In the month of April, Zurich announced its idea for a Pilot Project to trial a Cargo tram. At present, Dresden's famous Cargo Tram only commutes between the same two Volkswagen-manufacturers. In future



however, the new Cargo tram in Zurich will circulate everywhere including where the city's waste disposal and recycling department wants to move any bulk rubbish. A tram with two trailers will be converted into a mobile bulk rubbish collection station. The pilot project starts at the end of April, when the Cargo tram will be regularly collecting bulk rubbish in the city's peripheries. The city's authorities have opted for this innovative tram solution because the usual waste collection lorries need about three times longer to move across the heavily congested city during peak hours. This gives the Cargo tram the benefit of being cheaper and producing less pollutants. Historically, the Cargo tram is not a revolutionary idea for Zurich. At the beginning of the 20th Century Zurich's trams already carried beer, ice and gravel; post-trams were not uncommon; and previously the trams delivered food stocks to groceries situated by the tracks.

UITP WORLD CONGRESS



The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) has published its programme for its 55th World Congress to be held in Madrid Spain from 05 to 08 May 2003. The programme unveils the central theme of the Congress,

which is "The Challenges of Integration: Turning Multimodality into Seamless Mobility". The Congress theme is also supported by state-of-the-art exhibits at the UITP Mobility & City Transport Exhibition, which will be held in parallel with the Congress. For further information contact Cara McLaughlin at cara.mclaughlin@uitp.com or visit their website at www.uitp.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

14 - 16th May 2003
Halkidiki, Greece
"Energy and the Environment 2003"
First International Conference on Sustainable Energy, Planning and Technology in Relationship to the Environment
Contact: Gaye McKeogh
Tel: +44 (0) 238 029 3223
Email: gmckeogh@wessex.ac.uk

20 - 24th May 2003
Munich, Germany
Transport Logistics Trade Fair
Transport Logistic Messegelände
Tel: +49 89 949 20660
Email: info@transportlogistic.de

22 - 23rd May 2003
Copenhagen, Denmark
Best Urban Freight Solutions III
"Urban Freight and the Environment"
Tel: +44 114 222 0158
Email: c.henery@sheffield.ac.uk

26 - 29th May 2003
China
"International conference on Urbanisation and Environmental Sustainability"
Contact: Manas Chatterji
Email: mchatterji@binghamton.edu

27 - 30th May 2003
Mondello (Palermo), Sicily, Italy
"2nd International Workshop on Freight Transportation and Logistics Odyssey 2003"
Tel: +39 091 302655
Email: eurocongress@mbox.infcom.it
URL: www.unipa.it/Odyssey

04 - 06th June 2003
Gdansk, Poland
"International Conference on Clean, Efficient and Safe Urban Transport"
CESURA'03
A forum for disseminating R&D activities and results of other transport related projects will be provided.
Tel: +48 58 347 16 75
Email: cesura@ely.pg.gda.pl
URL: www.cesura.pl

BESTUFS CONTACT DETAILS

For further information, please visit our website at www.bestuvs.net or contact us:

Post: BESTUFS
Administration Centre
P O Box 1969
2280 DZ Rijswijk
The Netherlands
Email: bestuvs@nea.nl
Tel No: +31 70 3988 357
Fax No: +31 70 3988 426
URL: www.bestuvs.net

