



MARCO POLO 
NEW WAYS TO A GREEN HORIZON

PRESS PACK

for the [European Info Day](#)

Brussels, 13 September 2011

CHARLEMAGNE BUILDING

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A **MEDIA CORNER** will be held in a dedicated area in front of the plenary room at **11:00** with **Patrick Lambert**, Director of the EACI, and **Patrick Vankerckhoven**, Head of the Marco Polo Unit at the EACI.

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About Marco Polo

Marco Polo is the EU funding programme for freight transporters, shippers and logistic operators that are committed to the sustainable transport of goods across Europe. Marco Polo pursues the reduction of congestion on Europe's roads by shifting freight off the road to more environmentally friendly modes of transport, such as short-sea shipping, rail and inland waterways.
[\[http://ec.europa.eu/marcopolo\]](http://ec.europa.eu/marcopolo)

About the EACI

The Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) was established by the European Commission to ensure the effective management of three EU-funding schemes and a European business network. The EACI's team is made up of specialists on energy, the environment, business support, multi-modal transport, communication and finance.
[\[http://ec.europa.eu/eaci\]](http://ec.europa.eu/eaci)

For more information on the Marco Polo II programme visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/marcopolo>



Marco Polo in numbers

MP Projects Grant Agreements signed:	156
Under MP I:	55
Under MP II – 2007 Call:	20
Under MP II – 2008 Call:	28
Under MP II – 2009 Call:	22
Under MP II – 2010 Call:	31

	Earmarked	Spent
MP II Funds (2007-2010):	244 mil €	198 mil €
2007 Call:	56 mil €	45 mil €
2008 Call:	59 mil €	34 mil €
2009 Call:	66 mil €	66 mil €
2010 Call:	63 mil €	53 mil €

	Environmental benefits ¹	Modal shift ²
Estimated MP II project benefits (2007-2009) ³ :	1 417 mil €	58 billion tkm
2007 Call:	665 mil €	27 billion tkm
2008 Call:	351 mil €	15 billion tkm
2009 Call:	401 mil €	16 billion tkm

The period 2003-2010 at a glance:

- ▲ 164 grants awarded
- ▲ 624 companies involved in a project
 - ▲ 50 % are SMEs

[Released by the EACI on 13th September 2011]

¹ As defined by the MP Calculator, i.e. taking into account several parameters and expressed as externalities (social and environmental costs) avoided.

² Expressed in tonne-kilometres (tkm), i.e. tonnes of freight shifted from the road to other modes of transport.

³ Estimates based on total projects eligible for funding under each Call.



Speakers' Bionotes

Patrick Lambert

Director

Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)

Patrick Lambert worked for British Gas for 10 years in finance and personnel management. In 1984 he joined the Energy DG of the European Commission, working firstly in the natural gas field but thereafter enjoying spells in energy policy, international relations, energy efficiency and renewable energies. When energy and transport were merged in 2000 to create DG TREN, Patrick was responsible for international relations in these two sectors as well as relations with the Council and Parliament. Towards the end of 2004 he was appointed Director of the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency, the first executive agency created by the Commission. In 2007 the IEEA became the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI), responsible for managing a number of EU programmes in the fields of intelligent energy, sustainable transport, eco-innovation and small business support.

Patrick Vankerckhoven

Head of Unit Marco Polo

Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)

Patrick Vankerckhoven has a Master Degree in Nuclear Chemistry engineering and a BSc in Business and Administration. He worked for 12 years for a French – Belgian energy engineering and nuclear services company. He joined the European Commission in 1996 working firstly in nuclear safety policies and later in the Civil Protection unit at the Commission. After a short come-back to the Euratom supply agency as head of sector responsible for external relations, he joined DG TREN as responsible for the external relations of the Directorate for energy and transport security policy (post 9/11 security policies). In autumn 2007 he was appointed to his present position as Head of the Marco Polo unit in the EACI.

Photo Gallery



Scenes from the Plenary Session



Patrick Lambert
Director, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation



Magda Kopczynska
Head of Unit, European Commission, DG for Mobility and Transport



Patrick Vankerckhoven
Head of Unit, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation



André Pestana

Project Officer, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation



Anne Barseth

Head of Sector, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation

For more information on the Marco Polo II programme visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/marcopolo>



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Head of Unit, Interporto Bologna



Jean-Marc Dumas,
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