

Increasing Spanish cooperation with Brazil and Chile in the railway field

- **The Spanish Railway Association (MAFEX) is Mafex, is reinforcing promotional activities in Latin America. During November 24th to 28th, a new trade mission to Brazil and Chile was organized, obtaining very positive results.**

Madrid, December 3rd, 2014.- The Spanish rail industry focuses its efforts on consolidating itself in the Latin American market, where it already has great support.

This has been the main objective of the trade delegation organized by Mafex, which, during November 24th to 28th, travelled to Brazil and Chile to increase collaboration in transport plans that are going to be developed in this area.

According to Mafex, this visit has had positive results, as it has helped strengthen business ties with both countries and publicize the technological contribution of the industry in various projects undertaken by Spanish firms.

Brazil: Key meetings for the Spanish technological development in the country

The agenda included meetings in Brazil with members of the administration and several railway companies in the country. Among them, the meeting with Transnordestina Logística SA in the city of Fortaleza, Vale Logistics and Metro of Fortaleza and Belo Horizonte.

The trade delegation was made at a time of booming investment in transport. The current infrastructure plan, worth more than 20,000 million euros, opens new doors to Spanish companies. In fact, this country has become the main destination of the sector in Latin America, followed by Argentina and Chile. In the first eight months of the year, exports of Mafex member companies in Brazil totalled 116.1 million euros.

Chile: Railway, an investment axis for infrastructure

After this first stage, representatives from the delegation travelled to Chile to attend a round of meetings, such as the meeting with officials of Ferrocarriles del Estado (EFE) and Metro de Santiago.

Several issues were addressed, such as the Mafex Master Plan 2020, which includes significant investments. Among these investments is the program known as "Freight Transport Promotion", worth over 320 million dollars. The aim is to double the freight network from the current 11.5 million tons/year to 23 million.

**About MAFEX*

The objective of the Spanish Railway Association (MAFEX) is to carry out promotional activities in other countries, as well as to defend their general interests.

Created in 2004, it currently has 71 members representing more than 85% of Spanish rail industry's exports, according to official figures in 2012. Known as the official collaborating organization of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness through its Subsecretariat of Trade, the Association is supported by GRUPO AGEX, to which it belongs, and by different national and international organizations and institutions.

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