Dutch developers work together in the Open Logistics Foundation

**Aventeon, CargoLedger and TransFollow: eCMR teamwork in the European open source community**

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**A uniform standard for the electronic consignment note (eCMR) is one of the greatest opportunities in the transport industry. This is why the Dutch eCMR experts Aventeon, CargoLedger and TransFollow focus on teamwork. Together with 17 other companies, they are involved in a Working Group within the Open Logistics Foundation for a standardised and interoperable open source solution.**

The Open Logistics Foundation is a neutral, non-profit and commonbenefit organisation that is committed to establishing open source solutions in the logistics industry. There are four different Working Groups within the European Foundation, including the Working Group Electronic Transport Documents led by the German companies Dachser and Rhenus. Within the 20 members of this Working Group, the Dutch developers Aventeon, CargoLedger and TransFollow are among the driving forces. The focus is on the topic of eCMR. Although such documents have already been digitised in recent years, there is no uniform standard. The Working Group aims to develop a standardised and interoperable open source solution for companies.

**Open mindset for open industry solutions**

With the eCMR project, the Working Group aims to implement the electronic consignment note for everyone. This means there is no central authority through which freight documents are processed – the network and the electronic consignment note are open to everyone. The members of the Working Group show that the transport sector, in particular, is internationally networked: in addition to Germany and the Netherlands, companies from Belgium, Lithuania, Poland, Austria and Switzerland are also represented. The Working Group is open to new members from other countries in order to expand international cooperation further. Frank Kindt, Managing Director at Aventeon, emphasises: "It is remarkable that several Dutch providers of eCMR solutions have joined the Open Logistics Foundation as members. Here we are working together on an international level, which is crucial for success. In the end, we all benefit from a widely accepted, standardised open source solution. This means we have fewer interface problems and can invest more time in add-ons."

Hans Lip, International Sales and Marketing Manager at TransFollow emphasises the open collaboration beyond company boundaries: "The special thing about the Working Group? It is open to anyone who wants to participate and make a contribution. As there are different types of electronic documents and consequently many different solution providers, it is particularly important to have an open mindset – everyone has to work hand in hand here." Finally, Hjalmar van der Schaaf, CEO of Cargo Ledger, emphasises the network concept: "The Open Logistics Foundation is a unique initiative in Europe. It brings together some of the largest logistics service providers, providers of eCMR and other digital logistics solutions, as well as a lot of knowledge about digitalisation available on the market. If together we can develop open source solutions based on open standards that are adopted by the industry, the entire EU will benefit."

The Working Group focuses on sharing knowledge and experience from the industry and raising awareness of current developments in the logistics sector. With these very important steps, digitalisation in Germany, the Netherlands and the EU can be taken to the next level. The Working Group has already delivered the proof of concept: in October last year, logistics service providers Rhenus and Dachser tested the eCMR platform and automated document processing for around 200 outbound shipments on an actual transport route from Berlin - with great success.

**Participants in the Working Group**

Aventeon, Cargo Sign, CargoLedger, Dachser (Working Group Lead), DB Schenker, DSLV, duisport, Fraunhofer IML, Gebrüder Weiss, GS1 Germany, iteratec, LKW Walter, markant, Pionira NV, Rhenus (Working Group Lead), Sitra, Trade Link, TransFollow, Transporeon, Zufall.

Further information on the Open Logistics Foundation at [openlogisticsfoundation.org](https://openlogisticsfoundation.org/)

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**Image 1: F.l.t.r.: Frank Kindt (Aventeon), Hjalmar van der Schaaf (CargoLedger) and Hans Lip (TransFollow)**

**Image 2: With the eCMR project, the Working Group aims to implement the electronic consignment note for everyone.**

**About**

The Open Logistics Foundation and its supporting association Open Logistics e.V. were founded in 2021 and are independent and neutral organisations. The non-profit and commonbenefit foundation based in Dortmund is completely financed by industry partners and is dedicated to the voluntary development of innovative open source solutions at commodity level for the logistics industry. The focus is on open and fair cooperation between different companies, which can also be competitors in the free market. The overarching goal is to solve the most pressing existing problems of the logistics and supply chain management (SCM) community with uniform standards, tools and services, based on an open source.

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