

Hamburg, April 28 2008

## **Start of new EPIC service:**

### **Direct link to Karachi – improved connection with Alexandria**

The restructured EPIC service jointly provided by Hapag-Lloyd and Hamburg Süd linking Northern Europe with the Mediterranean region, Middle East and India will also offer a direct connection between Karachi and Hamburg, Tilbury and Antwerp. The first departure is scheduled for the 19th week. Transit time from Antwerp to Karachi will be only 17 days.

Hapag-Lloyd customers will also be able to use from Gioia Tauro (Southern Italy) a new, direct Alexandria Shuttle Service, linked to the EPIC service. The Alexandria Shuttle Service will offer an adequate number of reefer plugs and reach the Egyptian port in only 2.5 days.

Both lines are to deploy six 4,200 TEU vessels in the new EPIC service. Hapag-Lloyd will contribute four of these. The ships each have 400 reefer plugs.

The EPIC service will call at the following ports: Hamburg, Tilbury, Antwerp, Gioia Tauro, Jebel Ali, Karachi, Mundra, Nhava Sheva, Gioia Tauro, Hamburg.