The ChemMultimodal project's pilot phase aimed at testing the developed tool-box together with companies to see whether it can impact decisions regarding the modes of transport of chemical goods. Analysing the results across seven countries, more companies (58) than planned participated. On about every second route that was initially proposed, potentials for a shift towards more multimodal transport were identified. These 40 routes are representing 1,141 billion kilometers of transports currently emitting 70,852 tons of CO2 annually. In result of the pilot phase, transport on eight routes had shifted, reducing the CO2 emissions by 7,554 tons per year or 10.5 per cent. The learning of the pilot phase was used to revise the different tool-box elements with improved versions now being available for further use through the project website.

After the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers took their initial votes on the proposed overhaul of the Combined Transport Directive (92/106/EU) the European institutions have now engaged in a trialogue trying to hammer out a compromise before the European Parliament resolves. During the 3rd Policy Advisory Group meeting on 7 March 2019 in Brussels, ChemMultimodal partners discussed their pilot phase experiences with the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Prof. Boguslaw Liberadzki, and Raluca Bontea, representative of the Romanian European Council Presidency, who coordinates the member states’ working group in the trialogue. Especially cross-border freight transport by rail is hampered by different national standards, limiting potentials of more multimodal transport. Deficiencies in interoperationality between member states has also been identified as a major bottleneck in a study prepared by TRT Transporte i Territorio s.r.l. for the European Parliament that was presented in the policy advisory group meeting.