

Press release

Brussels, 7 November 2018

Rail - Europe's climate solution

Last week, the Graz Declaration promoting a 'green deal' for Europe was adopted under the Austrian Presidency at the Informal Meeting of Transport and Environment Ministers. The rail sector associations CER, EIM, ERFA, UIP, UIRR and UNIFE jointly welcome the new political initiative pushing for environment friendly transportation in Europe. Rail has a central role to play in providing environment and climate-friendly transport and helping Europe meet its sustainability challenges, and remains the best solution for promoting safe, clean and green mobility.

The Austrian Presidency's Graz Declaration, supported by EU Transport and Environment Ministers, signals a new political commitment to promoting a Green Deal for Europe. The Ministers agreed to develop actions that complete the TEN-T rail core network, increase the efficiency and attractiveness of rail transport by removing all the barriers to interoperability, and strengthening the digitalization and automation in the sector. As the greenest and safest mode of land transport, rail provides a significant contribution to the EU economy and to the completion of the Single Market. At a time when transport remains a growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, the European rail associations reaffirm their strong support for the EU priorities and objectives of greening transport, and their willingness to work towards increasing the efficiency of the rail system for the benefit of all EU citizens.

The European rail sector is committed to delivering a modern rail system that responds to customer needs, providing both quality and cost-effective rail services. Under pressure from fast-paced technological developments and environmental efforts in the other transport modes, the rail sector is determined to maintain rail transport at the forefront of the green agenda and to continuously build on our strong safety record.

Support is needed at all levels – local, regional, national and European, in order to maximise rail's full potential to the benefit of citizens, society and the economy. The success of the EU low emission policy, getting more goods off road and onto rail, depends on strategic investments in rail and multi-modal infrastructure, a level playing field for all modes of transport, the removal of national barriers to the Single European Railway Area and efforts to enhance rail's performance, by promoting digitalisation and use of standardised data and interfaces to address cost and quality issues.

CER, EIM, ERFA, UIP, UIRR and UNIFE share the view that the Graz Declaration can mark the beginning of a new era of clean, safe and affordable mobility for the benefit of Europe's citizens, the environment, and society at large, and reiterate the importance of keeping rail at the heart of national and EU policies for a decarbonized and clean transportation of the future. The rail sector stands ready to intensify its collaborative efforts in acting as a backbone of a sustainable mobility in Europe.

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Eva Böckle CER Head of Communications E: eva.boeckle@cer.be T: +32 (0)2 213 08 90 M: +32 (0) 473 32 20 94	The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 railway undertakings, their national associations as well as infrastructure managers and vehicle leasing companies. The membership is made up of long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public enterprises, representing 73% of the rail network length, 83% of the rail freight business and about 95% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policy makers and transport stakeholders, advocating rail as the backbone of a competitive and sustainable transport system in Europe. For more information, visit www.cer.be or follow @CER_railways on Twitter.
Marina Potapidou EIM EU Policy Advisor E: Marina.Potapidou@eimrail.org T: +32 2 234 37 71	EIM , the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers , was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following the liberalisation of the EU railway market. It also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies such as the European Railway Agency. EIM's primary goal is promoting growth of rail traffic and the development of an open sustainable, efficient, customer orientated rail network in Europe. For more information, visit www.eimrail.org or follow us on Twitter @EIMrail .
Julia Lamb ERFA Secretary General E: julia.lamb@erfarail.eu T: +32 4 85 25 99 88	ERFA represents 30 private and independent railway companies from across Europe. ERFA's aim is to foster an attractive business environment for rail freight services in Europe. All members fully commit to the creation of a competitive, non-discriminatory and innovative Single European Railway Area. For more information, visit www.erfarail.eu .
Julia Kremer UIP Manager of European Policies and Public Affairs E: julia.kremer@uiprail.org T: +32 2 672 8847	Founded in 1950, the UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers , domiciled in Brussels, is the umbrella association of national associations from fourteen European countries, thus representing more than 250 independent wagon keepers with approximately 200.000 freight wagons, performing 50 % of the rail freight tonne-kilometres throughout Europe. UIP represents the members' concerns at international level. By means of research, lobbying and focused cooperation with all stakeholders and organisations interested in rail freight transportation, the UIP wants to secure in the mid and long term the future of rail freight transport. For more information, visit www.uiprail.org .
Ralf-Charley Schultze President E: rcschultze@uirr.com T: +32 2 548 78 90	Who is UIRR? Founded in 1970, the International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR) represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transshipment Terminal Managers. Road-Rail Combined Transport (CT) is a system of freight forwarding which is based on efficiently and economically inserting electric rail into long-distance (road) transport chains through the use of intermodal loading units (ILU). For more information, visit www.uirr.com .
Tommaso Spanevello Public Affairs Manager E: Tommaso.Spanevello@unife.org T: +32 2 642 23 29	UNIFE represents the European Rail Industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers around 100 of Europe's leading large and medium-sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. UNIFE also brings together 14 national rail industry associations of European countries. UNIFE members have an 84% market share in Europe and supply 46% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services. For more information, visit www.unife.org or follow @unife on Twitter.