

Press Release

Bern, 13 June 2019

The European rail infrastructure CEOs discuss about the rail sector's future

Today in Bern, chief executives from rail infrastructure companies discussed measures for improving the operational environment of railway undertakings, with a special focus on increasing the rail freight modal share to 30% by 2030.

Jointly organised by the **Community of European Railways and Infrastructure Companies (CER)** and the association of **European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM)**, the annual meetings between the heads of rail infrastructure companies provide a platform for exchanging information and experiences between rail infrastructure companies, with a view to finding common solutions to support rail traffic in Europe.

The CEOs of rail infrastructure companies discussed Smart Language Solution, including artificial intelligence, for an efficient and safe communication between the train drivers and the signallers in border-crossing and multi-lingual settings. These pragmatic solutions aim at improving communication and interoperability, as well as reducing costs for railway undertakings, while respecting current EU language requirements.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss with rail freight operators on the processes and roles for an effective international coordination in the case of international disruptions. To be successful, the overviews of re-routing lines along the European Rail Freight Corridors was identified as being of key importance. Infrastructure managers discussed the importance of harmonising operational processes in order to improve interoperability, and called upon governments to invest in upgrading parameters of re-routings lines.

CEOs of rail freight companies representing the [Rail Freight Forward coalition](#) and infrastructure managers, together with representatives from transport ministries, jointly discussed the measures needed to transform rail freight into a high-performing, efficient and sustainable backbone transport system in order to shift more goods to rail. Infrastructure managers pledged their support by intensifying their efforts to enable easier access to infrastructure, improving planning and reliability of train paths, and simplifying train operations with dynamic traffic management, with the ultimately goal of creating a standardised high-capacity infrastructure for rail freight.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *"Today's discussion focused on finding pragmatic solutions to improving the operating environment for railway operators. It showed that to be successful, we need to intensify our effort and our cooperation between infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, as well as national and European authorities."*

EIM Executive Director Monika Heimig said: *"The role of rail infrastructure managers in providing the solution for today's and tomorrow's mobility issues have been underlined once again. Rail infrastructure managers have intensified their cooperation in various platforms and continue to do so. Best practice in the market need to be addressed on European level."*

<p>Contact Person</p> <p>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</p> <p>Contact Person</p> <p>Sandrine Roussel EIM Manager of Internal Affairs E: sandrine.rousseau@eimrail.org T: + 32 (0)2 234 37 70 M: +32 (0) 476 57 45 16</p>	<p>About CER</p> <p>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, 77% of the rail freight business and about 93% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policymakers 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.</p> <p>About EIM</p> <p>EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the 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 Union Agency for Railways. 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 further info, please consult www.eimrail.org.</p>
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