

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 14 December 2016

4th Railway Package – EIM welcomes increased role of the infrastructure manager

Today, the European Parliament approved the Council's Common Position on the Market Pillar of the Fourth Railway Package. The approval by the Parliament marks the end of four years of intense negotiations. The text will now undergo some minor procedural steps and is expected to be published in the EU Official Journal shortly.

EIM's President Antti Vehviläinen said: *"EIM members welcome the adoption of the Fourth Railway Package and notably its recognition of the role that Infrastructure Managers are to play in completing the Single European Railway Area. The Fourth Railway Package gives rail infrastructure managers the mandate to continue striving to deliver a high performing, sustainable and efficient rail infrastructure that meets customers' needs and benefits society as a whole."*

EIM Executive Director Monika Heiming commented: *"EIM welcomes the adoption of the Fourth Railway Package. After almost four years of intense negotiations, the Fourth Railway Package brings about some legal stability and a set of rules which EIM trusts will have a positive impact on the future of the railway sector in the years to come."*

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Background information

In 2013, the European Commission put forward a set of six legislative proposals amending existing EU directives and regulations aimed at 'completing the Single European Railway Area to foster European competitiveness and growth'. Soon after its proposal, the Package was divided in two pillars, the so-called Technical and Market Pillars.

The Technical Pillar consisted of three proposals to amend the interoperability and safety directives and a regulation expanding the role of the European Railway Agency. As a result of its adoption in April 2016, the European Railway Agency was renamed European Union Agency for Railways and will become the one-stop shop issuing safety certification of railway companies and authorizations for vehicles to be placed on the market. The Agency will also monitor the work of the National Safety Authorities and supervise the application of national rules.

The Market Pillar consists of three proposals to amend a directive on governance and market opening, a regulation on awarding public service contracts and a proposal to repeal a regulation on normalisation of accounts of railway undertakings. The Market Pillar contains important provisions aimed at improving the performance and efficiency of the railway system. These provisions include a new, more comprehensive, definition of rail infrastructure managers and the official recognition of the already existing Platform of Rail Infrastructure Managers in Europe (PRIME) which brings together European rail infrastructure managers.

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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 liberalisation of the 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.

To find out more about EIM, visit www.eimrail.org