DAC Sector Statement

Brussels, 10.07.2023

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU's greening targets

There is a common understanding of the need to strengthen rail freight in Europe, which is in decline today. It is nine times better in terms of CO₂ emissions than road transport and will help Europe in achieving its Green Deal and decarbonisation targets. Electrification of road transport is far from being mature and cost-effective and will still consume seven times more energy than freight transport on rail.

Automation and digitalisation will enable rail freight to become more efficient and attractive for logistics service providers and shippers and will bring relevant benefits for European society in general. It will increase the still underestimated growth potential for single wagonload traffic and strengthen the role of intermodal transport, both strategic segments for the modal shift. Especially, together with future ERTMS developments, they will contribute to increase infrastructure capacity. Their implementation will also increase safety at work and counter the predicted labour shortage in the sector by replacing outdated, mostly manually-operated technologies of the past, especially the coupling of freight wagons.

The rail sector stakeholder signatories of this paper are convinced that rail freight automation and digitalisation as well as a better, more modern and safer working environment are key to the viability and long-term prospect of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

However, the market alone cannot bear such a transformation, and no single company will be able to gather alone the necessary capital investments for such an endeavour, because it is first and foremost a European scale type of investment. Should social and economic benefits materialise, substantial public support is therefore urgently needed, especially for the introduction of the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC) and its associated automation and digital technology.

We are fully committed to achieve the deployability of this technology through intensive testing campaigns and we are ready, under a clearly pre-defined EU strategy and with fulfilment of the below preconditions, to the successive deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology at European scale. A challenge of this dimension would indeed require the support from the European Commission and the Members States, to ensure that all the necessary investments are properly coordinated and that obvious market failures are addressed by the policy-makers, such as the imbalanced distribution of costs and benefits among actors, and counter-balanced with appropriate funding and financing measures.

Where we are today

Progress has been made so far by the rail sector in developing state-of-the-art DAC technology, including with the support from the European Union and Member States. The rail freight sector from both EU and non-EU countries and the European supply industry are fully engaged and have already invested significant resources to develop a European state-of-the-art DAC including its automation and digital technology.
• The sector has united forces in the European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP), enabled by Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-Rail JU), and supported strongly by the European Commission (EC) and the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA). EDP has specified the basic DAC technology, developed a draft migration plan and elaborated the initial versions of the DAC Cost-Benefit-Analysis (CBA).

• 71 partners are engaged in the DAC and automation technology development within EU-Rail JU’s Flagship Project 5 (FP 5-TRANS4M-R) with a total project cost of around € 95 million, a major part of which is raised by the sector.

This intended and unprecedented transformation impacts the entire rail freight system, including its customers. As rail freight is largely international and essential for the realisation of the Single European Railway Area, careful planning, scoping and good coordination are key to master the deployment of European DAC including its automation and digital technology.

The historical situation of the European rail freight vehicle fleet needs to be taken into account in an intelligent way in order to minimise the transformation challenges and to optimise the need for public funding. The following preconditions are currently being worked out by the sector and will have to be implemented under a clear EU deployment strategy. They must be fulfilled before DAC deployment can start:

• DAC, its automation and digital technology and operational procedures have to be clearly defined and harmonised (single operational, mechanical, electrical and digital European DAC system).

• Clear evidence has to be available through successfully completed tests and validation in real operation, demonstrating that the final DAC and its automation and digital technology will deliver the expected benefits. All essential requirements (in particular reliability, availability, maintainability and safety, under all relevant climatic and operational conditions) have to be met. This evidence, including on maintenance cost, forms the basis for the final update of the CBA and the revision of the relevant Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs) and standards.

• A single, non-discriminatory, European funding and financing scheme, set up jointly by the EC as well as EU and non-EU countries, has to be guaranteed for the whole DAC migration period to cover the upgrading of existing wagons and locomotives and other asset-related and operational expenditure related to the DAC introduction. The funding rate must avoid any deterioration of the competitiveness of the European rail freight sector in general and its individual members. It should also reflect the time lag between investments and the full realisation of benefits.

• In coordination with the European Union Agency for Railways, suitable DAC authorisation provisions need to apply in Europe without compromising safety. With the help of the sector, authorisation risks for wagons and locomotives have to be mitigated (including availability of relevant documentation) in order to avoid negative impacts on the fleet availability during the (re-)authorisation process.

• A sound, realistic migration plan has to be set up, agreed by all actors, backed up by legal provisions and coordinated at EU level in close cooperation with EU and non-EU countries. It must guarantee effective DAC deployment in Europe, based on substantial funding, established
capacities for production, the feasibility of upgrading of wagons and locomotives and for their (re-)authorisation, staff training and availability of the necessary infrastructure and IT adaptations.

- The plan must allow a certain limited flexibility for the transitional coexistence of screw coupler and automatic coupler, for dealing with freight wagons from non-EU countries and with the fully separable parts of the European wagon fleet, e.g. wagons used in block-train and intermodal production systems only. It must minimise shortages of rolling stock impacting railway operators and customers during migration, risking a reverse modal shift. It shall determine for the vehicle keeper an economic and technical optimum between screw coupler, DAC and automation/digital technology upgrading and the scrapping/renewal of rolling stock, in particular locomotives and intermodal wagons. The integration of fleets/vehicles, mainly operated on networks functionally separate from the rest of the Union rail system (e.g. different gauge), must be subject (and conditional) to a case-by-case CBA, considering traffic flows and national specificities and lead to a positive outcome.

Such a plan will allow for a maximum positive impact of DAC and its automation and digital technology on European rail freight, ensuring the highest level of interoperability possible under the given economically reasonable circumstances, whilst requiring minimised transformation cost and optimised public funding. It will ensure the buy-in of all sector actors to fully endorse such transformation.

What needs to be done now

The European rail freight sector is working continuously on fulfilling the above-described DAC deployment preconditions on its side.

In parallel, the signatories of this paper, who are already engaged and committed to work jointly on the solution to address the challenges described to make such transformation happen, would like to collaborate with the European Commission and the Member States to ensure that DAC implementation is aligned with national as well as EU strategies, and in particular with the next European Multi-Annual Financial Framework, so that preparation for the migration of the DAC and its automation technology could start in 2028.

We call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start the work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology, ensuring substantial public support for the upcoming phases, in full complementarity with the necessary ERTMS and infrastructure investments:

1. **DAC Legal Package**  
   **From now until ca. 2028**  
   Creation of the legal & budgetary framework for DAC Deployment including authorisation and for the DAC Deployment Management Entity on the EU and Member State level.

2. **DAC Pre-Deployment**  
   **2025 to ca. 2028 | total costs ca. € 210 million**  
   Funding of a large-scale testing phase across Europe for DAC based technology with around 100 pre-deployment trains to prepare a successful migration and to start DAC industrialisation.
Setting up of a Pre-deployment Management Entity.

3. DAC Deployment as of ca. 2028 | total costs ca. € 13 billion (2021 price base)
   Funding of full-scale DAC deployment in Europe and the Deployment Management Entity.

We are convinced of the need to set up a centralised European Deployment Management Entity, for the necessary coordination at European level, as described in the EU-Rail JU’s EU DAC Investment Plan study. We recommend that the European Commission proposes a suitable implementation plan for this. A European benchmark could be the Joint Undertaking for the Single European Sky Air traffic management Research (SESAR).

Carole Coune
AERRL

Alberto Mazzola
CER

Michael Meyer zu Hörste
EAL

Monika Heiming
EIM

Gottfried Aldrian
FEDECRAIL

Gilles Peterhans
UIP

Ralf-Charley Schultze
UIRR

Thomas Avanzata
UITP

Philippe Citroën
UNIFE
Supporting members of the Representative Bodies

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18. Nexrail
19. ÖBB
20. ORV
21. OWLN Group
22. Rail Cargo Group (ÖBB)
23. Rail Logistics Europe (RLE)
24. SBB Cargo
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37. Wabtec
38. WASCOSA
39. ZSSK Cargo
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

29/06/2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Diego Pedrero
Presidente Ejecutivo AEFP

AEFP. Asociación de Empresa Ferroviarias Privadas
C/ Mario Roso de Luna nº29 post.; 28022 Madrid
Tlfn: 917475207 – gestion@aefp.es
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European Parliament
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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

June 28th, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Poupart-Lafarge
Chief Executive Officer
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Your contact person
Udo Hamann
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Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

aretz+co

Udo Hamann
Managing Director
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vàlean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
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European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Brussels, June 30, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vàlean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, BeWag and all its members unanimously, fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). Our members range from railway undertakings to wagon keepers, shippers, combined transport operators and terminal operators to certification bodies.

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Frédéric Buyse
President of Bewag

Created in 1946, BEWAG is the Belgian association of the railway wagons industry based in Brussels. Our members are Wagon keepers, Railway Workshops, Certification bodies, ECM (Entity in charge of the Maintenance), Innovation companies and experts, Connected companies & sidings, Users of railfreight transport, Logistic operators, Combined Transport Terminals and Railway outfit manufacturer.

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Ms Raquel Sánchez

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Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

3 July 2023

Re: Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Joost Naessens
Director Transport & Logistics
European Commission  
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)  
Commissioner Adina Vălean  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Brussels  

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Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)  
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich  
Acting Director-General  

27 June 2023  

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”  

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,  

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.  
Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).  
I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.  

Yours sincerely,  

Laurence ZENNER  
CEO CFL cargo s.a.
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

26th June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Sigrid Evelyn Nikutta
CEO DB Cargo AG
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

06/28/2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Daniela Gerd tom Markotten

Deutsche Bahn AG
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Valean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
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European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Wednesday the 28\textsuperscript{th} of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Valean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Woxblom
CEO and President 6/29/2023
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Madrid, 29th June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Carlos Omaña Pozo
Secretary of FAPROVE (Spanish Wagon Keepers and Operators Association)
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
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Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).
I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Olaf Feldbinder
Geschäftsführer
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Valean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
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European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marčič
Acting Director-General

Roma, 05/07/2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Valean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Silvio Damagini
CEO and General Manager
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

June 27th, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

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Yours sincerely,

Johann Feindert
CEO
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
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European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Munich, June 27th, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Jürgen Wilder
Member of the Executive Board
Knorr-Bremse AG
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
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Ms Raquel Sánchez

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Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

23/06/2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

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Yours sincerely,
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
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Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

07 07 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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Yours sincerely,

Director General

[Signature]

Eglė Šimė
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Lisbon, 27th of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Bruno Miguel Abreu da Silva
Managing Director
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
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European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Luxembourg 27th of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).
I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Mark REMIE
CCO
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Vienna, 26.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Andreas Matthaë
Chief Executive Officer
ÖBB-Holding AG

ÖBB-Holding AG
Ing. Mag. (FH) Andreas Matthaë
CEO
Am Hauptbahnhof 2
1100 Vienna
Austria
andreas.matthae@oebb.at
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Valean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marčič
Acting Director-General

27.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Valean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

CEO
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

European Parliament
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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bukran Maricic
Acting Director-General

27.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Yuriy Maslikov

Director

Getreidemarkt 14/32, Wien, 1010 Austria
E-mail: Yuriy Maslikov@owln.eu
www.owln.eu
Rail Cargo Austria AG, 1100 Wien, Am Hauptbahnhof 2

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
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B-1049 Brussels

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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marčič
Acting Director-General

Vienna, 26.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Clemens Forst
Chief Executive Officer
ÖBB Rail Cargo Group
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marčič
Acting Director-General

Saint-Ouen, le 28 Juin 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European preparation of DAC and its automation and digital technology deployment.

Yours sincerely,

Frédéric DELORME
CEO
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Olten, 30th of June 2023

DAC Sector Statement

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the DAC Sector Statement.

SBB Cargo has been one of the frontrunners in the development of the automatic coupler (AC) and we successfully use this technology in our daily business. We are advancing the preparatory works for the deployment of our national waggon and locomotive fleet. We are also engaged in the discussion on the implementation of public funding of deployment in Switzerland.
I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of automation.

Alexander Muhm
CEO SBB Cargo
European Commission  
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)  
Commissioner Adina Vălean  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Brussels

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Peter

Copy to:

European Parliament  
Committee on Transport and Tourism  
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union  
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers  
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission  
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)  
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich  
Acting Director-General
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

30.06.2023, Děčín, CZ

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.
Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).
However, it is necessary to realize that the basic criterion for customers’ decisions is the price of transport and the costs of introducing DAC are so high that it is impossible to expect that they will not be reflected in the price of rail freight transport and this may lead to a decrease in interest in rail freight transport.
I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Ing. Pavel Škarabela
President of SPV
European Commission  
Stena Recycling  
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)  
Commissioner Adina Vălean  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Brussels  

contact  
Michael Carlsson  
+46768149422  
michael.s.carlsson@stenarecycling.se

Copy to:  

European Parliament  
Committee on Transport and Tourism  
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union  
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers  
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission  
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)  
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich  
Acting Director-General

Jönköping 30. Juni 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Carlsson  
Logistics manager railway  
Stena Recycling AB
Levallois-Perret, June 30, 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vâlean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

David Zindo
CEO Streem Group

Streem Group
4-10 avenue André Malraux
92300 Levallois-Perret, France
T +33 1 49 07 28 00

SAS au capital de 86 034 443,10 €
898 195 558 RCS Nanterre | TVA FR 90 898 195 558

www.streemgroup.com
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Dublin, 30 June 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Luc ARDETTI
Director
Touax Rail Limited
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Zug, 27. Juni 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Per-Anders Bentthin
CEO

TRANSWAGGON AG
Re: Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vâlean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely

François DAVENNE
Director General
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Uitikon 28th of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, we fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). We call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

With our parliamentary motion on the automation and digitalisation of rail freight transport we have also triggered this process in Switzerland and are in the midst of preparing a legal proposal for the Swiss Federal Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

VAP

[Signature]

Joseph Dittli                  Dr. Frank Furrer
President, MP                 Secretary general
Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Välean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Wolff
General Managing Director

Hauptgeschäftsführer
Oliver Wolff
T 0221 57997-101
E wolff@vvd.de

28 June 2023

Wir lieben
EUROPA

Wir loren Europa

www.vvd.de/wirliebeneuropa

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Verkehrsuntemehmen e.V.
Hauptgeschäftestelle
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50672 Köln
T 0221 57997-0
F 0221 57997-8000
info@vvd.de
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Lobbyregister-Nr. bei Bundestag und
Bundesregierung: 2001242
Ust.-IdNr. DE 814379852
Sparkasse KölnBonn
IBAN DE12 3705 0198 0099 0029 58
SWIFT/BIC COOLDE33

Vorstand
Präsident: Ingo Wörtmann
Vizepräsident: Joachim Berends
Wolfgang Reising
Werner Overkamp
Prof. Kurt Ringst
Oliver Wolff

Hauptgeschäftsführer
Oliver Wolff

Hauptstelle:
Stadtverkehr bis Bahnsteigl. Regionalzüge bis
Bahnhof Köln West

Rhein-Mosel-Express

HGF 1/1
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Wawra
Voith Group
EVP & CEO Mobility
Group Division Turbo
Division Mobility

Digitally signed by Wawra, Martin
Date: 2023-06-28 09:51:19+02'00'
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Hamburg, June 27th, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Malte Lawrenz
Chairman

VPI – VERBAND DER GÜTERWAGENHALTER IN DEUTSCHLAND E. V.

Mattenstwiete 5
20457 Hamburg
Germany

T +49 40 2265921-0
F +49 40 2265921-19
E mail@vphamburg.de
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Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Hamburg, 27.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Sven Wellbrock
Chief Operating Officer Europe
Chief Safety Officer
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Valean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcic
Acting Director-General

Paris, 27th June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Valean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Pascal Schweitzer
President, Wabtec Transit
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Lucerne, June 28, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).
I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Iris Hilb
CEO
European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Bratislava, 27.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Roman Gono
Chairman of the BOD and CEO