



Joint Press Release

Brussels, 14th November 2006

ERFA, ERFCP, F&L and UIP join forces to open up the rail freight market

Today, ERFA (European Rail Freight Association), ERFCP (European Rail Freight Customers Platform), F&L (European Freight and Logistics Leaders Forum) and UIP (International Union of Private Wagons) have signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MoU) to work jointly towards full market liberalisation, the emerging of competing rail operators and open access to all rail facilities in Europe. The signatories encompass Shippers, Transport and Logistic Providers, Private Railway Undertakings and Private Wagon Companies and cover an important and growing segment of Rail Freight Transport. They commit themselves in future to speak with one voice in Europe on matters of common interests. Nevertheless, they will remain independent and be free to pursue issues which are particular to their respective organisations

The signatories share the conviction that an efficient freight transport system requires higher quality and productivity of rail freight services which can only be achieved through intramodal competition.

In the light of the current evaluation of the implementation of the First Railway Package and the White Paper of the European Commission, the four associations have come to the conclusion that urgent and joint action is needed in order to contribute to the implementation of the relevant EU legislation both *de jure* and *de facto* in all Member States. To achieve this, the four associations will work on a set of concrete issues summarised below and seek close contacts with all relevant European institutions and Member State's governments:

- Antitrust/competition issues
- EU legislation, including compliance by member states
- Infrastructure (separation of infrastructure from operations, conditions, pricing)
- Insurance (European cross-border coverage)
- Interoperability
- Safety
- Noise reduction
- Regulatory Bodies
- Rolling stock (harmonisation, pricing, dismantling, 2nd hand market)
- Security of rail freight transport
- Single wagons
- Standardisation of contracts (e.g. General Contract of Use)
- State subsidies (abolition)
- Statistics (where needed and useful)

Within this MoU, the organisations will work together to pursue these joint objectives needed to create a fully liberalised and competitive rail freight sector, putting pressure on all relevant European institutions and Member State's governments to achieve their aims.

For more information on this MoU, please contact:

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