



The voice  
of the  
private rail  
freight market

## Press release

- For immediate release -  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2009

### House of Rail urges action on the Commission

**Members of the House of Rail held their 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in London on Monday 20 April 2009.**

For its future action programme, the House of Rail agreed that, in response to the current economic crisis, and on the understanding that there would be no EC support available to the industry, the Commission must facilitate industry to help itself grow market share, increase competitiveness and take much stronger action to ensure no unfair state aids to or price dumping by incumbents.

HoR members continue its strong support for the European Commission's rail freight liberalisation programme, through the draft Regulation for the creation of a European network for competitive rail freight, and urging it to proceed with all speed with legal action against member states who have not implemented the First Railway Package, as well as moving forward on the Recast of the FRP.

All these, if quickly implemented, will reduce costs and bureaucracy and enable the private sector to compete on much more equal terms with state owned entities.

Member States and the EU should take the opportunity to invest in rail infrastructure which will be necessary in the future.

Finally, the European Commission must insist on full independent regulation across the EU to protect the rights of independent operators and ensure fair capacity allocation and charging for use of infrastructure.

The HoR will be seeking to meet the EU Transport Commissioner A. Tajani to discuss these issues further in the coming months.



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In addition, the HoR will be seeking industry support for the creation of a European last mile & sidings strategy and association, building on the practical experience of the many thousands of sidings operators, and leading to a 2<sup>nd</sup> conference on these issues in the autumn. Last mile and sidings issues cause additional costs, delays and frequently prevent operators from using them at all; they should be open to all operators on a non-discriminatory basis since, without this, there can be no competition for services to and from them.

The House of Rail General Assembly approved this programme and elected Lord Tony Berkeley (President of ERFA) as Spokesperson of the House of Rail in succession to Mr Bruno Dambrine (President of UIP).

Members of the House of Rail also agreed to invite a number of new members to join, the criteria being that they operated in the private sector rail freight sector.



Lord Tony Berkeley  
Photo: ERFA

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