



# Press Statement

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**UIP promotes a better sharing of information among rail actors as a basic requirement to ensure safe operations and a role for ERA to facilitate the way forward in the exchange of the return of experience.**

UIP held a Workshop on Risk Assessment and ECM Certification in Cologne on March 27, 2013. The workshop brought together speakers from the European Railway Agency, Entities in Charge of Maintenance, Wagon Keepers, Workshops, Certification Bodies, and some RUs. This event comes at a critical time as the 31 May is the deadline for the mandatory certification of self-declared Entities in Charge of Maintenance (ECMs) according to Regulation 445/2011/EC.

Mr. Jean-Marie Dechamps, head of the Safety Management System team at ERA Safety Unit, pointed out ERA's principle tasks in developing, monitoring and facilitating the process of ECM Certification. Facilitation is essential in order to make the link among the Sector, the NSAs and OTIF on safety related issues. In April 2013, the official version of the *ECM Certification Guidelines* is expected to be published by the Agency. In addition, Mr. Dechamps pointed out that, already the ERADIS database ([www.eradis.era.europa.eu](http://www.eradis.era.europa.eu)) acts as a central repository tool and provides the list of certified ECMs and the corresponding certificates. ERA noted that it is not the Agency's role to upload certificates information, but it is the role of the Certification Body to do so.

ERA also reminded that the involved actors such as the RUs, Wagon Keepers, and Workshops should share information in order to ensure that ECMs can assume their duties properly. Furthermore, it presented the roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved in the maintenance processes, as well as the requirements of the ECM Certification scheme, the role of the Certification Bodies and the importance of equivalence and mutual recognition between the different systems in the Member States.

With regards to Risk Risk Assessment and Risk Management ERA explained the basic principles and introduced the changes in the new CSM on Risk Assessment and the implications for the ECM

## **UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers a.i.s.b.l.**

Founded in 1950, the UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers, with its seat in Brussels, is the umbrella association of national associations from fourteen European countries, thus representing more than 250 keepers with approximately 180.000 freight wagons, performing 50 % of the rail freight tonne-Kilometres throughout Europe. The UIP represents the members' concerns at international level. By means of research, lobbying and focused cooperation with all stakeholders and organisations interested in rail freight transportation, the UIP wants to secure on the long term the future of rail freight transport.

in managing risks in their Maintenance Management System. For the CSM on Monitoring, ERA provided practical examples on the processes to be defined and the tools to be used for a proper application of the legislation.

The UIP workshop also focused on the return of experience in ECM Certification by Wagon Keepers, Workshops and Certification Bodies.

Mr. Joachim Wirtgen, Head of Maintenance and Safety Management at VTG confirmed the need for more trust and cooperation between the Keepers and the NSAs. He also highlighted the need for more openness and exchange of information on safety relevant issues.

Mr. Karsten Elstner, Director of Franz Kaminski Group (a German workshop) pointed out that key priorities for the workshop are: the reduction of the number of audits, the harmonization of technical rules and the management of risks in workshop activities.

Dr. Fabian Schmid from ERC, an Austrian Notified Body for interoperability and an ECM Certification Body, stressed the importance to work towards measurable safety targets and to ensure consistent safety levels in Europe. He also expressed critical concerns for the lack of provisions on mileage delivery by the RUs.

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Brussels, (date)

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