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***ERRAC: Members commit to support the evolution and regeneration of the ETP***

The European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC), as a European Technological Platform (ETP), is a joint initiative by stakeholders from the European rail sector to **enhance competitiveness through mobilising research and innovation efforts**.

ERRAC was set up in 2001 with the ambitious goal of creating a single European body with both the competence and capability to help revitalise the European rail sector and make it more competitive, by **fostering increased innovation and guiding research efforts at European level**. Within ERRAC, all major rail stakeholders are gathered: manufacturers, operators, infrastructure managers, the European Commission, EU Member States, academics and users' groups. ERRAC covers all forms of rail transport: from conventional, high speed and freight applications to urban and regional services.

Since its launch in 2001, ERRAC has produced a number of **important and influential documents**, such as the Joint Strategy for European Rail Research – Vision 2020, the SRRA – Strategic Rail Research Agenda, RailRoute 2050 – the sustainable backbone of the Single European Transport Area and others. The two latest ERRAC key publications are the **Strategic Rail Research and Innovation Agenda (SRRIA)** published in November 2014 and the **new ERRAC Roadmaps 2016** that will be officially disclosed during the Transport Research Arena event taking place in April 2016. All these documents/publications represent the ERRAC vision shared and agreed by all the ERRAC Stakeholders.

ERRAC activities have been supported by the European Commission thanks to the implementation of Coordination and Support Action (CSA) projects launched during the previous European Research Framework Programmes. For instance, ERRAC developed its first set of roadmaps via the EU funded (FP7) project ERRAC ROADMAP (2009-2012). The current EU funded (FP7) project FOSTER RAIL (2013-2016) is supporting ERRAC in developing a new full and complete vision, via namely the SRRIA and the new ERRAC 2016 Roadmaps.

The FOSTER RAIL project will be completed in April 2016 and there are no new CSA projects planned by the European Commission in Horizon 2020 to support ERRAC activities. Indeed, only one CSA is currently running: the SETRIS project. However, this project is focusing only on cross-modal issues and therefore does not address all rail issues.

Therefore, **ERRAC is entering in a new phase** requiring an evolution of the ETP to continue its supporting role to the rail community.

Today we, as ERRAC members, **reinforce our commitment to ERRAC, as an independent ETP supporting the railway sector needs, its users and potential users**. We believe that **the mission of ERRAC remains essential to achieving the future development objectives of railways**:

- 1) ERRAC will remain the **high level advisor to railways and the society**, working transparently and keeping the many sectors of the railway talking with a common voice.
- 2) ERRAC will remain the rail sector-led stakeholder and considered the key actor in **driving innovation and European competitiveness**.
- 3) ERRAC will continue producing **strategic documents** (such as research and innovation agendas and roadmaps) aiming at the **identification of technologies and innovations appropriate to railways**

for action to be supported by both private and public funding, including also cooperation with other ETPs and national activities.

- 4) ERRAC will continue to mobilise rail stakeholders to deliver on agreed priorities and share information and will still be open to new members that could enrich the ERRAC vision.
- 5) ERRAC will take into consideration the rail challenges and demonstrate how railway transport can contribute in a positive and efficient manner to others global challenges (e.g. society, environment, decarbonisation, digitalisation).
- 6) ERRAC will seek support from funders and stakeholders for further funding for railway needs from H2020, other sources and from future EC Programmes for the preparation of Shift2Rail n°2 Program.

ERRAC will utilise and build upon **the excellent technology and strategy development work** carried out by the Sector Associations, especially in the Urban and Freight areas. It will also utilise **the railway technology strategies** developed by the Railways and Suppliers to describe the development needs through further updates and new Roadmaps and Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

ERRAC is particularly indebted to the UIC and UNIFE for their on-going support.



Prof Andy Doherty  
ERRAC Chairman

*Note: Signed by the ERRAC Chairman on behalf all of the ERRAC Members (UIC, UNIFE, UITP, CER, EIM, UIP, EPF, F&L, EURNEX)*