

Rotterdam, 21 June 2016

Railway Sector Declaration on Boosting International Rail Freight

Today the rail sector and its customers, represented by CER, CLECAT, EIM, ERFA, ERTMS Users Group, ESC, UIP, UIRR, and UNIFE, and supported by the Rail Freight Corridors, presented a declaration at the TEN-T Days in Rotterdam, committing themselves to the aim of enhancing the competitiveness of the Rail Freight Corridors for the benefit of all customers, and to improving the quality, reliability and efficiency of transporting goods by rail across Europe.

The sector declaration complements the one presented by the Transport Ministers of the EU member states, and seeks to boost the development of rail freight transport. Both declarations were presented at the Business Conference on Rail Freight Corridors organised during the TEN-T Days in Rotterdam on 21 June 2016.

The sector declaration identifies important measures which are needed to improve the competitiveness of the Rail Freight Corridors in order to make rail freight a more attractive option for all customers, to enhance the operational efficiency of rail freight operators, and to ensure adequate capacity for all users. One such measure includes a single list of important operational issues to be resolved for improving international rail freight, updated annually by the advisory groups of railway undertakings, and proposed to rail freight corridors in order to support their action plan. Additionally, the corridors will continue providing and improving an adequate, generic and comparable set of key performance indicators (KPIs) on the quality of service at regular intervals, and in consultation with the stakeholders, taking into account already existing work carried out by the sector.

Finally, the rail sector associations have committed to report on the results of the actions agreed in the declaration on a regular basis.

All signatories of the declaration jointly state: *"The sector declaration, in combination with the ministerial declaration, is an unprecedented effort to increase the competitiveness of international rail freight, unlocking its growth potential, and promoting rail's key role in a sustainable transport system. It shows that the European rail sector and member states are pulling together on the same string with a common goal in mind: boosting international rail freight for the benefit of the whole sector, particularly shippers and other end-users. All parties are committed to working together towards that goal."*

The sector declaration is available at [XXX \(ADD LINK\)](#).

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CER

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 European railway undertakings and infrastructure companies. CER represents the interests of its members towards the European institutions as well as other policy makers and transport actors. CER's main focus is promoting the strengthening of rail as essential to the creation of a sustainable transport system which is efficient, effective and environmentally sound. For more information, visit www.cer.be or follow us via Twitter at [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways).

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CLECAT is the Brussels based organisation representing the interests of freight forwarders, transport and customs related services in Europe. Neutral towards transport modes, freight forwarders are large users of rail freight services and, hence, important customers of railway undertakings.

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EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following the liberalisation of the EU railway market. It also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies such as the European Railway Agency. EIM's primary goal is promoting growth of rail traffic and the development of an open sustainable, efficient, customer orientated rail network in Europe.

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ERFA, the European Rail Freight Association, represents new entrants i.e all those operators who want open access and fair market conditions, and sustains their role of pushing forward the development of the railway market. ERFA's 34 Members from across Europe share a commitment to work towards a competitive and innovative single European railway market by promoting fair and transparent market conditions for all railway companies.

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ERTMS Users Group

The ERTMS Users Group (EUG) is a European Economic Interest Grouping which acts as a technical platform of railway companies with large investments in ERTMS to discuss and contribute to the solutions for all technical and operational issues associated with the implementation of ERTMS on their network and fleet. EUG advises CER, EIM and ERFA in the technical field of ERTMS. For more information, visit www.ertms.be.

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ESC

The European Shippers' Council (ESC) represents the logistic interests of manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers, collectively referred to as shippers. ESC Members are drawn from national shippers' associations, European commodity trade associations and businesses. For more information, visit <http://europeanshippers.eu/about/>.

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UIP

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 200 Freight Wagon Keepers and approximately 200.000 wagons, performing more than 50 % of the rail freight tonne-kilometres throughout Europe. UIP represents the members' concerns at European and 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. For more information, visit www.uiprail.org or follow [@UIPRail](https://twitter.com/UIPRail) on Twitter.

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UIRR

Founded in 1970, the International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR) represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transhipment Terminal Managers. Road-Rail Combined Transport (CT) is a system of freight forwarding which is based on efficiently and economically inserting electric rail into long-distance (road) transport-chains through the use of intermodal loading units (ILU). For more information, visit www.uirr.com



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UNIFE

UNIFE represents the European Rail Industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers around 80 of Europe's leading large and medium-sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. UNIFE also brings together 14 national rail industry associations of European countries. UNIFE members have an 84% market share in Europe and supply 46% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services. For more information, visit www.unife.org or follow [@unife](https://twitter.com/unife) on Twitter.