

Press release

Brussels, 20 March 2013

European Parliament starts work on the Fourth Railway Package

On 19 March, the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism officially appointed the rapporteurs who will be leading the discussions on all aspects of the Fourth Railway Package. The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) is looking forward to cooperating with all appointed Members of the European Parliament in order to achieve the best possible legislative solutions for a sector that constantly aims to improve its performance in terms of efficiency and customer satisfaction.

CER is currently working on a detailed position on the European Commission's proposal, in order to be able to provide all rapporteurs with rail sector expertise as soon as possible.

"This package will deeply affect the functioning of the rail sector" said CER Executive Director Libor Lochman *"both with its technical pillar and with the parts dealing with the governance of rail companies and the opening of the domestic passenger market. It will definitely shape rail's future - and we are ready to commit all our energies in contributing to this cornerstone of European transport policy"*.

In this context, CER takes note of the results of the orientation debate which took place in the Transport Council on 11 March. Several concerns have been raised by Member States regarding the proposed recast of the Directive on Interoperability. The rail sector shares with Council the goal of establishing relations between the European Railway Agency (ERA) and the National Safety Authorities which will neither compromise railway safety nor overload rail companies with an even more cumbersome administrative burden.

CER is however convinced that the currently costly and lengthy procedures relating to safety certification and authorizations for placing vehicles in service must be streamlined and controlled by a single European authority. Such a reform would have substantial positive effects, not only for the rail sector, but ultimately also for its customers and for European citizens.

"CER reiterates its demand to both Parliament and Council to put the technical pillar on the fast track, since this part of the package will undoubtedly bring visible positive economic effects enabling the rail system development and making it attractive for entrepreneurs interested at offering train services" added Libor Lochman.

The two other pillars of the Fourth Railway Package are more controversial and contain a number of aspects which CER cannot support. A detailed response to these proposals is in preparation, and CER looks forward to fruitful exchanges of views with both Parliament and Council on these matters.

Notes to the editor:

MEP Said el Khadraoui (S&D, BE) will be the rapporteur on the proposal amending directive 2012/34 (also known as the Recast of the First Railway Package), MEP Mathieu Grosch (EPP, BE) will be the rapporteur on the revision of regulation 1370/2007 on Public Service Obligations, MEP Roberts Zile (ECR, LV) will be the rapporteur on the revised regulation establishing the European Rail Agency, MEP Michael Cramer (Greens/EFA, DE) will be rapporteur on the revised directive on Safety, MEP Izaskun Bilbao (ALDE, ES) will be the rapporteur on the revised Interoperability directive and MEP Jaromir Kohlicek (GUE, CZ) will be responsible for issue of the repeal of regulation 1192/69.

For further information, please contact:

Eva Böckle

Press and Communications Manager

phone +32 2 213 08 90

mobile +32 473 32 20 94

e-mail eva.boeckle@cer.be

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together 80 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, see www.cer.be