

Press Release
Brussels, 27 June 2013

European railway sector welcomes the provisional agreement on Public Procurement

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached a provisional agreement on the Public Procurement legislative package on 24 June. The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes the compromise reached on the Directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services (replacing Directive 2004/17/EC - the so-called “Utilities” Directive) as it is a step forward in enhancing the flexibility of existing rules.

Representing the rail sector in Europe, CER is thankful to the rapporteur MEP Marc Tarabella (S&D, BE), his colleagues of the European Parliament Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee and the Irish Presidency of the EU for their efforts made to strike an agreement, which brings further legal clarity and takes into consideration the special characteristics of the utilities sectors.

Since the beginning of the legislative procedure, CER has welcomed the revision of the existing legal framework in as much as it aimed at simplifying and clarifying the provisions of the ‘Utilities Directive’ with a view to ultimately reduce unnecessary administrative and legal costs.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman declared: *“CER is pleased to see that crucial aspects for the development of a competitive railway market in Europe have finally been taken into account during the triologue negotiations. In particular, we are happy to see that both the Parliament and the Council listened to the utilities sectors’ concerns adopting flexible thresholds and time constraints especially insofar as they concern framework agreements and substantial modifications of the provisions of a contract.”*

In view of the final agreement on the legislative package, CER invites both the European Parliament and the forthcoming Lithuanian Presidency to continue their dialogue with the utilities sectors as they share a common responsibility and concern for delivering the best possible service to citizens and businesses in the countries in which they operate.

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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, see www.cer.be

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