

## Press Release

Brussels, 15 January

# CER welcomes Parliament agreement on public procurement

Today, the European Parliament adopted in plenary the public procurement legislative package as agreed with the Council before the summer break. The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes the text voted 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.

For railway undertakings and infrastructure managers, the adoption of this package of directives is an important matter as many CER members are public undertakings. That means that the Public Procurement ‘Utilities’ Directive is to be applied in the railway sector by all state-owned undertakings.

CER welcomes the revision of these directives since they are intended to simplify and clarify the texts with a view to reducing unnecessary administrative and legal costs. CER therefore thanks the co-legislators for their efforts made to strike an agreement. Such a compromise brings further legal clarity and takes into consideration the special characteristics of the utilities sectors.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *“We are happy that the railway sector’s main issues of concern have been taken into account by the EU Institutions. However, we regret that the Directive does not completely ensure a level playing field between private and public undertakings, a necessary pillar for the execution of public rail transport services. Nevertheless, we are sure that this important piece of legislation will contribute to the further development of a competitive railway market in the EU.”*

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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 80 members - European railway undertakings, their national associations as well as infrastructure companies. The membership covers long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public-sector organisations. CER members represent about 70% of the rail network length, more than 85% of the rail freight business and over 96% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. For more information, see [www.cer.be](http://www.cer.be)

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