

Press Release
Brussels, 16 March 2015

CER welcomes signs of progress on Fourth Railway Package

Last Friday, EU Ministers for Transport gathered in Brussels to discuss among other issues the Fourth Railway Package. The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes this discussion as it represents a clear step forward towards an agreement on the Market Pillar of the Package.

In particular, CER sees that a vast majority of Member States are accepting governance flexibility as outlined by the proposal for a compromise put forward by the Latvian Presidency: the essential functions doctrine should be re-established, with the application of stricter rules for independence focused on path allocation and charging for the access to the infrastructure.

CER has concerns however over the fact that a number of national delegations were not keen to introduce in the revision of the Directive clear provisions for guaranteeing fair access to rolling stock to all Public Service Contract candidates. CER hopes that Member States will reconsider their positions in order to find an effective solution to such a concrete market barrier.

Finally, CER appreciates that almost all Member States have committed themselves to working intensively on both the Market and the Technical Pillars in the coming weeks, in view of achieving an overall agreement by the end of the Latvian semester.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: “We look forward to seeing the progress of the next weeks and months: the European rail sector urgently needs a technically harmonised system and CER will do its utmost to support all progress towards positive agreements on all the texts of the Package.”

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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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