

Press Release

Brussels, 14 July 2015

Aiming high - CER and UNIFE welcome TRAN vote on the report on implementation of the 2011 White Paper on Transport

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and the European Rail Industry Association (UNIFE) welcome all the efforts made by the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) of the European Parliament, under the lead of Wim van de Camp MEP, on its own-initiative report 'Implementation of the 2011 White Paper on Transport: taking stock and the way forward towards sustainable mobility', which was adopted today.

The European rail sector broadly supports the European Parliament's approach aiming at speeding-up the implementation of the initiatives listed in the 2011 Transport White Paper. CER and UNIFE share the view of the TRAN Committee as it reiterates the importance of **maintaining the targets set in the 2011 White Paper on Transport**. Moreover, the report correctly underscores that **the Commission should propose concrete measures and initiatives to increase and streamline the efforts to meet them**. CER and UNIFE **very much support this approach** and welcome the references made by the Parliament to achieving a **swift adoption of the Fourth Railway Package** and the **implementation of the SHIFT²RAIL Joint Undertaking**. This would bring efficiency gains while also boosting the attractiveness of rail transport solutions in order to achieve modal shift targets for both freight and passenger transport.

Furthermore, CER and UNIFE are pleased with the TRAN Committee's approach on prioritising the financing of rail projects **under the TEN-T and CEF initiatives**. In this respect, European policymakers should ensure that Member States provide **solid and sufficient funding for rail infrastructure with simplified rules**.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: "CER agrees with the vast majority of the issues brought forward by the TRAN Committee; it should however be noted that CER does not agree with the call to ensure that all EU public service contracts are awarded via public tender. **This is not in line with the position expressed by the same European Parliament with the adopted first-reading text of the revision of Regulation 1370/2007 on passenger transport services, voted by the plenary in February 2014**. Regarding the issue of rail noise, CER agrees that **public funding should be targeted at retrofitting noisy rail freight wagons**. However, the call for a ban on noisy freight wagons by 2020 represents a **huge threat to the very existence of many freight companies, which would then be hammered on the one side by the lack of public funding for retrofitting, and on the other by the Europe-wide ban**. Such a ban would even be discriminatory against railways since no similar actions are envisaged for road."

UNIFE Director General Philippe Citroën commented: "We are glad that the European Parliament took into due consideration the top priorities of the European rail industry. **Implementation should**

be the key-word for our sector in the near future and in this respect I can only support the European Parliament's plea for immediate action on the **Fourth Railway Package**, on **SHIFT²RAIL** and on the **removal of barriers** that prevent the European rail industry from bidding for public contracts in non-EU countries”.

The TRAN Committee report will be voted in plenary on 7 September. Its content should then feed into the European Commission's stocktaking report, due to be finalised at the beginning of 2016.

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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 railway undertakings, their national associations as well as infrastructure managers and vehicle leasing companies. The membership is made up of long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public enterprises, representing 73% of the rail network length, 80% of the rail freight business and about 96% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policymakers and transport stakeholders, advocating rail as the backbone of a competitive and sustainable transport system in Europe. For more information, see www.cer.be or follow us via Twitter at [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways)

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Since 1992, UNIFE represents the European Rail Industry at both the European and International level. The Association gathers around 80 of Europe's leading large and SME rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. UNIFE also brings together 15 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. Website: www.unife.org Twitter: [@unife](https://twitter.com/unife)