Press Release
Warsaw, 19 November 2025

Connecting Europe: Infrastructure CEOs focus on High-Speed Rail, Strategic Readiness, and Sustainable Investment

European rail infrastructure CEOs from the Association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) and the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) gathered in Warsaw today to exchange on how to strengthen Europe's rail network for the future - by making it faster, more resilient, and better connected for citizens and businesses.

The discussions focused on how Infrastructure Managers can jointly deliver a truly European rail system without barriers, capable of connecting all major cities and capitals through high-speed links, while ensuring sufficient capacity for both passenger and freight transport. Participants highlighted that Europe's infrastructure must be ready to meet future challenges - from growing transport demand and climate change to the need for military and civil resilience. This requires coordinated planning, interoperable standards, and the timely implementation of rail technology such as the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and Digital Capacity Management.

Infrastructure CEOs agreed that these ambitions can only be achieved with stable and long-term investment. The next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034) will play a decisive role in providing the financial backbone for the rail sector - through programmes such as the Connecting Europe Facility, the European Competitiveness Fund, and the new National and Regional Partnership Programmes. Participants underlined that sufficient resources, predictable conditions, and effective coordination between national and EU funding streams are essential to ensure that rail continues to drive Europe's decarbonisation, resilience, connectivity, and competitiveness.

This year's High-Level Infrastructure Meeting (HLIM) took place in Warsaw on 19 November 2025 on the invitation of PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe S.A. Co-organised by EIM and CER, the HLIM serves as an annual platform for Infrastructure Managers to share experiences, exchange best practices, and promote joint solutions to improve Europe's rail network and strengthen the role of rail as the backbone of sustainable and resilient mobility.

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CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola said: *"Europe's rail infrastructure is entering a decisive phase. Delivering a high-speed, resilient and fully interconnected network, fulfilling the requests of commuters and freight customers, and adapting to the new geopolitical context, will require strong cooperation among Infrastructure Managers and firm political support at both national and EU levels. The next EU budget must provide the long-term funding and governance stability that our sector needs to plan and deliver. Only by investing in interoperability, digitalisation and capacity can we achieve a truly seamless European Railway Area for passengers and freight."*

EIM Executive Director Monika Heiming said: *"Infrastructure Managers are ready to build the European rail network of tomorrow - but we need the right framework to make it happen. This means certainty of long-term investment through the next EU budget, coordinated deployment of ERTMS and digital tools, and a shared commitment to removing bottlenecks. High-speed infrastructure links between Europe's capitals, sufficient capacity for growing freight volumes and infrastructure resilient to climate and security challenges - these are not distant ambitions but practical priorities that require action now. With stable funding and strong European coordination we can deliver the seamless, sustainable rail system that Europe's citizens and economy depend on."*

Contact Person	**About CER**
Laura Henry CER Head of Communications E: laura.henry@cer.be M: +32 491 16 21 73	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 78% of the rail network length, 81% of the rail freight business and about 94% 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.
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Sandrine Roussel Manager of Internal Affairs: E: sandrine.roussel@eimrail.org M: +32 (0)492 29 94 73	EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following the liberalisation of the EU railway market. It also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies such as the European Railway Agency. EIM's primary goal is promoting growth of rail traffic and the development of an open sustainable, efficient, customer orientated rail network in Europe. For further info, please consult www.eimrail.org.