

Press release

Brussels, 30 January 2019



COP24: the takeaways for Europe

On 29 January, the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and Dutch Railways NS hosted a roundtable discussing “COP24: the takeaways for Europe – How rail can help deliver on urgent climate goals”. This event gave attendees a unique opportunity to gain deeper understanding of the climate policy and contribution of rail towards delivering on climate targets set by the Paris Agreement.

Attendees learned about the European Commission’s strategic vision for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 which was followed by the successful conclusion of COP24 in Katowice, where a clear rulebook to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted.

Transport, which heavily relies on liquid fossil fuels, is the main obstacle in delivering the EU’s climate objectives. A high-level panel discussed the decarbonisation of the transport sector in Brussels and how this could help meet the Paris Agreement goals.

The Commission’s 2050 strategic vision acknowledges rail as an important mode for low-emission mobility. The rail sector is indeed the only mode reducing its emissions despite increasing freight and passenger traffic. As recently agreed by environment and transport ministers under the Graz Declaration, railways as a backbone of sustainable mobility, both for urban/sub-urban and medium/long-distance transport, should be promoted and effectively interconnected with other low-carbon modes.

Roger van Boxtel, CEO, Dutch Railways (NS) said: *“The mobility sector is part of the climate problem, and rail is part of the solution.”*

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *“The rail sector is in line with the Paris climate goals and thanks to energy-efficient, zero-carbon railways there can be more transport activity without more emissions.”*

Our latest factsheet ‘Put Europe “on track” to achieve climate-neutral transport’ can be downloaded [here](#).

Pictures of the event are available [here](#).

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About CER

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, 77% of the rail freight business and about 93% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policy makers and transport stakeholders, advocating rail as the backbone of a competitive and sustainable transport system in Europe. For more information, visit www.cer.be or follow [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways) on Twitter.