

PRESS RELEASE

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The crucial role of rail in the decarbonisation plans of the EU

Yesterday, the European Commission published its Communication ‘A clean planet for all – A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy’ setting the long-term strategy for greenhouse Gas emissions reductions. The Communication, presented ahead of the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties, taking place in Katowice in December 2018, outlines the way forward for the EU climate, energy and transport policies and entails the EU strategy in line with the Paris Agreement that will bring forward a vision of a low carbon economy protecting the planet and its people.

CER – the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies, EIM – the Association representing rail infrastructure managers in Europe and UNIFE representing the European Rail supply Industry welcome the Commission’s initiative reiterating Europe’s commitment to be the global leader in worldwide climate action, and acknowledge that it is crucial for policymakers to seize the opportunity to accelerate decarbonisation of the transport sector.

Rail is the most sustainable and energy-efficient low-emission transport mode and it plays a crucial role in the decarbonisation of the transport sector. Rail is evolving as the backbone of a low-carbon, multimodal transport system in Europe and it is therefore the solution to address the current emissions gap compared to the ambition for 60% GHG reduction target by 2050 for transport, as set in the 2011 Transport White Paper.

CER, EIM and UNIFE urge the decision-makers to increase the modal share of low-emission transport modes and support the further electrification of the rail network. In addition, the support for research and innovation in the rail sector shall be continued and intensified with the extension of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking programme under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme 2021-2027.

The three Associations wish to present their joint Position Paper on the long-term strategy for greenhouse gases emissions reduction, which aims at highlighting the role of rail transport as a whole contributing decisively in the future crucial political discussions and decisions.

To access the Position Paper, [click here](#)

<p>For more information:</p>	
<p>Ethem Pekin CER Senior Environmental Economist E: Ethem.Pekin@cer.be T: +32 2 213 08 40</p>	<p>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, 83% of the rail freight business and about 95% 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 on Twitter.</p>
<p>Marina Potapidou EIM EU Policy Advisor E: Marina.Potapidou@eimrail.org T: +32 2 234 37 71</p>	<p>EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of 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 more information, visit www.eimrail.org or follow us on Twitter @EIMrail.</p>
<p>Tommaso Spanevello UNIFE Public Affairs Manager E: Tommaso.Spanevello@unife.org T: +32 2 642 23 29</p>	<p>UNIFE represents the European Rail Industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers around 100 of Europe's leading large and medium-sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. UNIFE also brings together 14 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. For more information, visit www.unife.org or follow @unife on Twitter.</p>