



The Voice
of European
Railways

Press Release
Brussels, 01 December 2014

Can rail help deliver a brighter future for Europe?

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and the Italian Presidency of the EU are jointly organising a political debate on the role of rail in underpinning Europe's future mobility and growth on 4 December. The event will be a good opportunity to consider the obstacles preventing rail from realising its full potential and the potential policy measures at EU and national level to remove these barriers and reinforce rail's competitiveness.

The debate will focus on how to realise the Transport White Paper vision on high-speed and cross-border rail services and how to seize the opportunities that rail freight opens up for Europe's industry and economy. It will also touch upon the role of rail infrastructure as a bedrock for growth, the need to create a level playing field for all transport modes and the importance of supporting measures at regulatory, technical or R&D level to help rail fulfil its potential.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *"In Europe, demand for transportation is set to increase in the coming decades, both for passenger transport and freight. At the same time, Europe faces pressing challenges such as congestion, energy scarcity, future shortages of fossil fuel supplies and, as a consequence, the rising price of petrol. If solutions are not found urgently, these challenges are likely to have a negative impact on mobility and the economy. Rail is an essential part of the solution."*

He added: *"Rail's economic benefit is enormous, with direct annual contributions of EUR 66 billion in gross value added. Rail's indirect economic benefit, through supplier relations and the effect of infrastructure investments is even more impressive, and is equivalent to more than 1% of the EU GDP. This, together with rail's remarkable environmental and energy-efficiency track record should make it the mode of choice for the future. However, this will only happen if public policies are put into place to support the transition to ever more innovative, efficient and attractive rail services for passengers and companies."*

To register and for further information, please have a look at the [CER website](#).

For further information, please contact:

Eva Böckle

Senior Press and Communications Manager

phone +32 2 213 08 90

mobile +32 473 32 20 94

e-mail eva.boeckle@cer.be

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

COMMUNITY OF EUROPEAN RAILWAY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES - COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE DU RAIL ET DES COMPAGNIES D'INFRASTRUCTURE - GEMEINSCHAFT DER EUROPÄISCHEN BAHNEN UND INFRASTRUKTURGESELLSCHAFTEN



CER aisbl Avenue des Arts, 53 B-1000 Bruxelles Tel: +32 2 213 08 70 Fax: +32 2 512 52 31 contact@cer.be www.cer.be