

CER welcomes Council's Common Position on the Technical Pillar

In a further important step towards the establishment of a true Single European Rail Area, the Council of the EU today adopted its position at first reading on the Technical Pillar of the Fourth Railway Package. The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) is encouraged by this new sign of progress and looks forward to the same endorsement of the Technical Pillar by the European Parliament.

CER has been closely following all the steps that have led to the adoption of the Council's position at first reading on the texts of the revised Directives on Safety and on Interoperability, and of the revised Regulation establishing a European Rail Agency. The rail community would like to thank once more the Council and the European Parliament for the work done in the trilogue negotiations that came to a successful conclusion last July.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *"We expect now that the European Parliament will adopt the Council Common Position at the earliest opportunity: European railways need it with urgency, as parked investments must be put on track as soon as possible!"* He added: *"The association is also monitoring the work of the dialogues on the Political Pillar: once more the Council, the Council Presidency and the EP negotiating team led by Chairman Michael Cramer, MEP David Sassoli and MEP Wim van de Camp are doing a great job in view of reaching an overall interinstitutional agreement in the spring of next year. We are therefore very hopeful to have all portions of the Package in force by mid-2016".*

Contact Person

Laura Henry
Press & Communications Manager
E: laura.henry@cer.be
T: +32 (0)2 213 08 73
F: +32 (0)2 512 52 73

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, 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 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 us via Twitter at @CER_railways.