

Press Release

Brussels, 19 October 2009

Rail associations link up to make an interoperable railway a reality

The European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM), the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) have announced today that they will be working together more closely on a number of technical issues in the future. The main aim is to provide coordinated support from the industry to the European Railway Agency.

Experts from the European associations CER and EIM, supported by the multi-regional technical body UIC, will work together in the newly launched 'Coordination Technical Group' (CTG). The role of the CTG will be to develop common sector positions on technical issues where possible.



EIM, CER and UIC staff at CTG kick off in Brussels

The CTG is expected to deliver a number of key benefits for EIM and CER members in their activities and representation towards the European Railway Agency (ERA), the EU body which develops technical standards for the railways. The new structure will help to develop synergies and increase the efficiency of the existing decision making process. By being able to express joint positions where possible, the input to the ERA's activities by the railways will be clearer and more coherent.

Libor Lochman, Deputy Executive Director of CER, said at the kick-off meeting today: "Through greater coordination between our groups of technical experts, positions and messages will be shaped in a more efficient way. The CTG will make the sector's technical decision-making process more effective, which in turn should contribute to realising a truly interoperable European railway network."

Michael Robson, Secretary General of EIM, said: "These new working methods will allow the Brussels based associations to work more effectively and to deliver a wide range of benefits to our members in the European rail industry, thus helping rail – the most sustainable transport mode – to maintain its competitive edge."

Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director General of UIC said: "As the technical research and standardisation body for the rail operating community, UIC is pleased to be involved within the CTG in this significant step towards ensuring that all the interfaces essential to moving the rail sector towards greater system interoperability are being addressed in a coordinated manner."

ENDS



*The Voice
of European
Railways*

European Rail
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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 rail infrastructure managers and railway undertakings in Europe. 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

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EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following liberalisation of the railway market, with a view to supporting the development of the rail industry. It is a lobbying organisation which also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies. To find out more about EIM, visit www.eimrail.org or follow us on twitter at twitter.com/EIM_rail.

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The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide organisation for international cooperation among railways and gathers 201 members on all 5 continents. The UIC's main missions are to promote rail transport across the world in order to cope with current challenges of mobility and sustainable development, developing technical standards, by enhancing international cooperation between its members and building a consistent railway system. For more information, see www.uic.org.