



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Railway sector joins forces to deploy digital technology

**The members of CER, CIT, EIM and UIC are strongly committed to digitalisation as one of the top priorities for the rail sector and its future. Today, these four railway associations are presenting a joint *Roadmap for digital railways* to promote the proper use of digital technology, which is essential to enhancing rail's performance and increasing its attractiveness for customers.**

*(Brussels / Paris, 26 April 2016)* Railways see digitalisation as an opportunity to maintain a strong market position in Europe. With this Roadmap, the sector commits to digital transformation by strengthening cooperation, both within the sector and with third parties, and by calling on the help of EU institutions to collectively deliver on the objective of making railways digital. This entails:

- offering connected railways by providing reliable connectivity for safe, efficient and attractive railways;
- enhancing customer experience by offering better and added value for customers;
- increasing capacity by enhancing the reliability, efficiency and performance of railways;
- boosting competitiveness by making the most of transport data.

Railways are fully engaged in the digital revolution and dedicated to contributing to the creation of a true Digital Single Market for Europe.

The Roadmap can be downloaded here:

[http://uic.org/com/IMG/pdf/a\\_roadmap\\_for\\_digital\\_railways.pdf](http://uic.org/com/IMG/pdf/a_roadmap_for_digital_railways.pdf)

**UIC Director-General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux** emphasised that “the principle challenge for the railway operating community is being able to determine, in a joined-up way, where the principle energies must be expended and which technological priorities will be most beneficial to developing the digital European railway system. It is vital that this involves a wide range of stakeholders, with our customers being first and foremost in the line-up. What the customer expects from their rail experience is crucial to the development of an attractive railway system. The UIC has developed its Digitalisation Platform for this express purpose and which will seek to identify best practice from right around the world so as to maximise the developmental opportunities for rail.”

**CER Executive Director Libor Lochman** said: “Digitalisation offers major potential for railways and for Europe's economy. Railways are committed to working together and with other sectors in order to make the most of the opportunities offered by the digital transformation. It is essential that European institutions complement these initiatives by creating the corresponding policy

environment.”

**CIT Secretary General Cesare Brand** said: "CIT together with its members is working on the implementation of the digital roadmap finalising the legal and functional specifications for the electronic consignment note. In parallel with that work, the CIT will further support RailData in its practical work to finalise the technical specifications as part of the e-RailFreight project. The use of the electronic consignment note alongside the various logistic chains will substantially contribute to improve the competitiveness of our member railways.”

**EIM Executive Director Monika Heiming** said: “Digitalisation will drive the railway’s agenda in the next years to come. The challenge will be to develop collaboratively joint visions for the future versus silo thinking in the past. Rail infrastructure managers will gain a lot from this collaborative approach. Innovation will help them boost their management, performance and deliverables in the interest of all.”

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UIC is the worldwide organisation for the promotion of rail transport at a global level and collaborative development of the railway system. It brings together some 240 members on all 5 continents, among them rail operators, infrastructure managers, railway service providers, etc. UIC maintains close cooperation links with all actors in the rail transport domain right around the world, including manufacturers and suppliers of goods and services, railway associations, public authorities and stakeholders in other domains and sectors whose experiences may be beneficial to rail development. The UIC's main tasks include understanding the business needs of the rail community, developing programmes of innovation to meet those needs and preparing and publishing professional railway standards that facilitate the implementation of the innovative solutions. The train and education of the people called upon to use these innovative solutions is vital and the organisation of training schemes is a core component in ensuring the competency of tomorrow’s generation of rail personnel. Representing rail with a wide range of international organisations such as the UN

and cooperating with all organisations specialising in rail matters and transport issues right around the world is one of the prime raisons d'être of the UIC.

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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](http://www.cer.be) or follow us via Twitter at  [@CER\\_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways).

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The CIT is an association of railway undertakings and shipping companies that operate international passenger and/or freight transport services. 136 companies are full members of the CIT and more than 80 undertakings are indirectly affiliated via 6 associate organisations. The CIT is an association under Swiss law, with its headquarters in Bern and has the task to provide all necessary juridical documents and instruments for international traffic at railway level. The CIT support legally the railway undertakings, implement international and European rail transport law, standardises the contractual relationships between the various players (customers, carriers, infrastructure managers, wagon keepers, customs authorities) and represents the interests of the carriers vis-à-vis legislators and other national and/or international authorities. In addition, it provides

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regular briefings for its members and provides members with training courses and legal advice.

EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the infrastructure managers in Europe, following liberalisation of the 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.