

Paris, 4 April 2016

To: ERRAC - FOSTER-RAIL Final Conference

Dear colleagues of the European Commission, dear members of ERRAC, dear attendees,

First of all let me say it is with great regret that I cannot personally attend this Final Conference of the FOSTER-RAIL project!

Today – at the projects final conference - we have a chance to glance back over the 3 year of running time of this important project set up in support of ERRAC, the European Rail Research Advisory Committee which would not have been possible without the grant provided by the European Commission.

It has not been an easy ride to run this project alongside of the development of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking which has been taken much of the specialised rail research and Innovation manpower from many of the European Rail Stakeholders. Nevertheless, the project consortium has managed to develop a great number of important deliverables which should be used to guide the steps forwards towards the necessary innovation of the European Railway system in becoming the backbone of the EU transport system as the main intermodal component... and doing so, in full support of the EC's Transport White Paper and its aims for a sustainable European transport system.

These important FOSTER-RAIL deliverables such as the Rail Business Scenarios and based upon these the new Strategic Rail Research & Innovation Agenda and its 10 part Roadmaps will also provide a strong input to the future Horizon 2020 and S2R Work programs and Call topics as well as being the basis for the future transport related research programs and Calls.

Having had the honour of being the coordinating organisation for this strategic project, I would like to thank the European Commission, all project partners and all other contributors for successfully supporting this project and its deliverables.

I hope that all European transport stakeholders will take notice of the interesting project results and will use them as building block for our future sustainable and customer focused European transportation system. You can be assured that the UIC and the Rail Operating Community will do so and will continue to give its strong support to ERRAC!

I wish you all a very fruitful Final Conference!

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