



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

UIC, the worldwide railway organisation, and the European Union Agency for Railways have signed a coordination framework

(Paris, 1 December) UIC and the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) signed a coordination framework on 29 November.

The European Union Agency for Railways was established in 2004 to contribute to the further development and effective functioning of a Single European Railway Area without frontiers by guaranteeing a high level of railway safety and interoperability while improving the competitive position of the railway sector. UIC aims to enhance international cooperation between its members, particularly in the field of technical harmonisation. A coordination framework between ERA and UIC is therefore of benefit to the railway sector and UIC members.

Based on a common understanding of the links between the technical documents drafted or published by ERA and UIC's specifications, this coordination framework between ERA and UIC will serve as an umbrella for topics of common interest: annexes to Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs) such as GSM-R, FRMCS (Future Railway Mobile Communication System), safety and operations, human and organisational factors, etc.

Mr Krzysztof Mamiński, UIC Chairman and CEO of PKP (Polish State Railways), emphasised the mutually beneficial nature of this kind of agreement, which will strengthen the relationship between the two organisations for technical coordination.

Mr François Davenne, UIC Director General, stressed in particular that the 4th Railway Package has come in force with a new set of responsibilities for ERA. Therefore, technical coordination with UIC is all the more important to ensure that each stakeholder can take ownership and responsibility for paving the way toward optimal development of the railways' efficiency, accuracy and eco-mobility.

Mr Josef Doppelbauer, ERA Executive Director, added: *“Cooperation, both at European and at global level, is essential for the railway sector to be able to provide an attractive proposition for customers of rail. Our collaboration with the International Union of Railways is an important step in this respect.”*

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