

## Press release

Brussels, 15 March 2017



# CER welcomes EP call to allocate budget for Interrail initiative

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes today's adoption by the European Parliament of the Mureşan report on the general guidelines for the preparation of the 2018 EU budget, Section III. In particular, CER appreciates the Members of the European Parliament broadly endorsing a call to the European Commission to assess the potential cost and funding sources of an initiative called '18th Birthday Interrail pass for Europe', and to put forward a relevant proposal.

**CER Executive Director Libor Lochman** said: "Today's vote shows that the report was supported by a large set of political groups, and this is very good news. As part of the 2018 budget proposal, we expect the European Commission to come up with a dedicated plan for the '18th Birthday Interrail pass for Europe' initiative."

*"We take this vote as a sign of recognition of the European rail sector's role in the creation of the European identity. Railways have been connecting Europe for almost two centuries and continental routes have strengthened the bonds between states. In more recent decades, Interrail passes have especially proven to be an affordable and reliable mobility solution for all Europeans, and particularly for young people. This is why we wholeheartedly support the call of the European Parliament and put our expertise at the Commission's disposal."*

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### Contact Person

**Eva Böckle**  
CER Head of Communications  
E: [eva.boeckle@cer.be](mailto:eva.boeckle@cer.be)  
T: +32 (0)2 213 08 90  
M: +32 (0) 473 32 20 94

### 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, 83% of the rail freight business and about 95% 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).