

Press release

Brussels, 8 June 2017



Greening Europe's transport by introducing distance-based road tolling everywhere in Europe

Today, European transport ministers are having a first discussion on the mobility initiatives recently presented by the European Commission. While they are a step in the right direction, the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) urges the Transport Council to help deliver the ambitions of the 2011 Transport White Paper. The internalisation of external costs, including wear and tear, should be mandatory by 2020. It is high time to move towards that goal.

CER Executive Director **Libor Lochman** said: *"Now is the time to create a level playing field among different modes of transport. Distance-based infrastructure charging on roads is a pre-condition for fair intermodal competition. Railways already pay distance-based track access charges everywhere in the EU. By contrast, even for major roads, charges (vignettes or tolls) are currently only applied on about 20-25% of the network in Europe. We hope EU Member States will step up their commitment to reducing transport's CO2 emissions and quickly agree on the right measures to reach that goal."*

Notes to the Editor:

The CER press release (long version) from 1 June is available [here](#).

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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 or follow us via Twitter at [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways).