

**PRESS RELEASE**

**13<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**European Parliament votes in favour of greening and digitalising transport**

**CER – the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies, EIM – the Association representing Rail Infrastructure Managers in Europe, and UNIFE - the European Rail Supply Industry Association, welcome the European Parliament’s vote on the Connecting Europe Facility, and their commitment to invest in greening and modernising transport.**

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, the European Parliament approved its report on the Connecting Europe Facility Programme under the Multiannual Financial Framework of 2021 to 2027. MEPs voted for an overall increased budget for transport of EUR 37.8 billion (33.6 billion in constant prices), including the amounts transferred from the Cohesion Fund and from the Defence budget.

Rail plays a crucial role in the EU’s economic growth and completion of the Single Market. The Connecting Europe Facility is the key financing instrument for bridging missing links and bottlenecks of the TEN-T Core Network Corridors, thus increasing the competitiveness and market share of the European rail system. The Connecting Europe Facility will thus strengthen rail as the backbone of sustainable mobility in Europe.

**CER Executive Director Libor Lochman** said: *“We thank the European Parliament for supporting a continued strong CEF programme. The importance of rail as the green land transport mode is reflected in the European Parliament’s vote. However, we believe further funding is necessary to support the interoperability and digital transformation of rail operations, including ERTMS on board and on track. For the latter, the rail sector estimates that at least EUR 15 billion is required from the future EU budget for the period 2021-2027.”*

**EIM Executive Director Monika Heimig** said: *“We welcome the Parliament Plenary vote for the Connecting Europe Facility and the call for its increase. It is of utmost importance to ensure that rail, as the most sustainable transport mode, receives sufficient budget to reach its objectives and become fully digitalised. We call the decision-makers to come to an agreement and support the completion of seamless and interoperable TEN-T Network that caters for the best travelling experiences for the passengers and the best quality services for rail freight.”*

**UNIFE Director General Philippe Citroën** said: *“The European Parliament has taken a bold step towards greening and modernising transport, as the strong CEF programme will contribute greatly to the implementation of the TEN-T Core Network Corridors and speeding up ERTMS deployment. It is now up to the negotiators to swiftly agree on the final deal, as a strong and efficient CEF will provide vital funding to rail – the greenest and the safest mode of transport – and help even further increase its contribution to the EU’s 2030 climate targets.”*

<p><b>For more information:</b></p>	
<p><b>Eva Böckle</b> CER Head of Communications E: <a href="mailto:eva.boeckle@cer.be">eva.boeckle@cer.be</a> T: +32 (0)2 213 08 90 M: +32 (0) 473 32 20 94</p>	<p>The <b>Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER)</b> 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 <a href="http://www.cer.be">www.cer.be</a> or follow <a href="https://twitter.com/CER_railways">@CER_railways</a> on Twitter.</p>
<p><b>Marina Potapidou</b> EIM EU Policy Advisor E: <a href="mailto:Marina.Potapidou@eimrail.org">Marina.Potapidou@eimrail.org</a> T: +32 2 234 37 71</p>	<p><b>EIM</b>, the <b>association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers</b>, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following the liberalisation of the EU 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. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.eimrail.org">www.eimrail.org</a> or follow us on Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/EIMrail">@EIMrail</a>.</p>
<p><b>Andrei Ciufu</b> UNIFE Head of Communications E: <a href="mailto:andrei.ciufu@unife.org">andrei.ciufu@unife.org</a> T: +32 (0)2 626 12 64</p>	<p><b>UNIFE</b> represents the <b>European Rail Supply Industry</b> in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers over 100 of Europe's leading large and medium-sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. UNIFE also brings together 14 national rail industry associations of European countries. UNIFE members have an 84% market share in Europe and supply 46% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.unife.org">www.unife.org</a> or follow <a href="https://twitter.com/unife">@unife</a> on Twitter.</p>