

Press release

Brussels, 11 December 2019



A shift to rail is vital for delivering the European Green Deal

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes the European Green Deal, which recognises the role of rail in delivering the target of reducing transport greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2050. However, this will require the European Parliament and Member States to match the Commission's ambitions.

Shifting a substantial part of inland freight away from road will require a step change in investments in rail infrastructure capacity, both extending the network and deploying digital traffic management technologies such as ERTMS. Improved public transport will be fundamental to address the decarbonisation of cities. Effective transport pricing and affordable railways are the only way forward to improve traffic patterns and foster sustainable modal choices of passengers and logistics operators: the principles of 'user pays' and 'polluter pays', which rail complies with better than any other motorised transport mode in Europe, are not to be given up under any circumstances.

Railways also welcome the intention of the Commission to continue its work on sustainable finance and strengthening the foundations for sustainable investments, and to support research and innovation in clean transport; they look forward to exchanging further on the strategy for sustainable and smart mobility.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *"The European Green Deal is an initiative of unprecedented ambition in any other continent of the globe: with it, the von der Leyen Commission proves its firmest commitment to change pace in the run towards full decarbonisation. CER will work with Vice-President Timmermans, Commissioner Vălean and all other EU policymakers on the journey to provide all Europeans with more accessible and cleaner transport."*

Read our paper [Rail's priorities for EU the Green Deal](#) and have a look at our [fact sheet](#) on the Commission's recent study on transport cost internalisation.

Contact Person

Eva Böckle
CER Head of Communications
E: 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 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 71% of the rail network length, 76% of the rail freight business and about 92% 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 [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways) on Twitter.