

Press release

Brussels, 21 January 2020



ÖBB CEO Andreas Matthä takes over as CER Acting Chair

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes ÖBB CEO Andreas Matthä as Acting Chair of its Management Committee as of 20 January 2020.

As the longest serving Vice-Chair of the Management Committee, Mr Matthä is taking over from Crister Fritzson (Chairman of the Swedish Association of Train Operators (ASTOC) and CEO & President of SJ) who has resigned to pursue other career opportunities. Andreas Matthä will also stand as a candidate for the regular election of the CER Chair that the CER General Assembly will elect for a two-year term at its meeting on 19 February.

CER Acting Chair Andreas Matthä said: *"These are decisive times for the railway sector: We need to make rail and other means of sustainable transport a centrepiece of the implementation of the European Green Deal. We need to strengthen rail infrastructure in Europe and pay more attention to the challenges and benefits of digitalisation. Europe must foster the right conditions to shift traffic from road to rail. I thank Crister Fritzson for his CER commitment and am looking forward to working with all CER members to make rail the backbone of Europe's mobility system."*

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *"We have enjoyed a close cooperation with Crister Fritzson over the past years, which were filled with political uncertainties, and I would like to thank him for his dedication. Looking at the challenges and opportunities ahead, I am very happy to welcome Andreas Matthä as acting Chair of the association. He has been following our work as an active Member of the Management Committee for many years. We will certainly profit from his vast experience amongst others in positioning railways as part of the solution in the fight against climate change."*

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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.