

# Transport White Paper: supporting rail means supporting our economy and citizens

Passenger associations and railways share a common vision: a **European rail sector that is the backbone of a seamless, multimodal and accessible transport system**, an enabler for the competitiveness, inclusiveness and sustainability of the European economy.

Effective steps need to be taken to turn the **White Paper's objectives into reality**, and the railways are committed to achieving a situation where the rail sector advances **technological innovation and new service models** in areas such as **ticketing, travel information and real-time information** for customers.

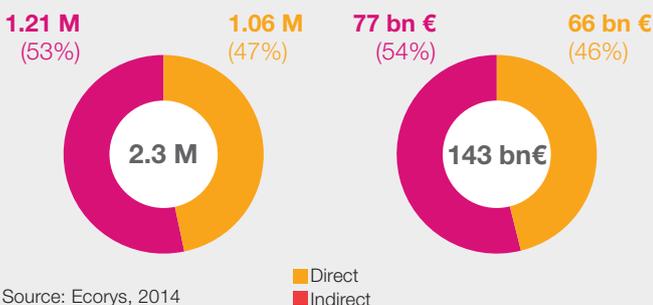
By continually embracing technological and societal changes, the sector works towards **increased passenger care and service quality** in order to better meet the needs and expectations of its customers.

## 1. Rail is essential for the EU's economic and employment recovery

### Why should the EU and its Member States do more to support the rail sector?

Rail investment supports economic growth and job creation, while contributing to an inclusive society and promoting the freedom of movement for everyone within the EU.

#### Millions of people employed by the EU rail sector



### Rail is essential for connectivity in Europe

Railways create wider economic impacts as a result of connecting European citizens, improving travel times and reducing congestion.

Commuters	Business passengers	Leisure passengers
Improved labour markets allowing relocation of labour	Improved competitive position of European businesses	Increased domestic and international tourism

**9 BILLION** passengers are at the heart of the European railway business. From long-distance high-speed trains to local and regional trains, railway transport offers travel for all, including those without a car as well as elderly or disabled passengers.

## 2. Rail is essential for creating a safer and more sustainable transport system

The European rail sector is critical to the delivery of Europe's goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions, achieving energy security, and relieving congestion.

### Specific CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per transport mode



### Fatalities per billion passenger kilometres, 2008-2010



### 3. Rail infrastructure as an essential condition for European economic growth

The under-financing of rail infrastructure over the past few decades, especially in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe, is one of the main problems in Europe's transport policy today. This has had dramatic consequences on the performance and quality of rail services.

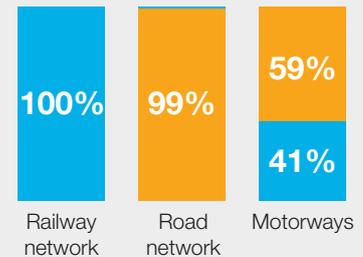
Proper financing of the rail network is key to secure a safe, reliable, accessible and convenient transport sector and directly influences the standard of services and assistance to customers.

#### Rail and road modal share of transport infrastructure investment in EU-15 and CEEC



Source: ITF/ECMT, 2011

#### Share of infrastructure pricing: rail VS road



At the moment, distance-based infrastructure financing is the norm only in the rail sector. A level playing field between transport modes is needed here.

Source: ASECAP & European Commission, 2014

## Actions needed

The railways and passengers' common plea to decision makers in the EU and in Member States is to **turn the White Paper's objectives into reality** by swiftly implementing concrete policy measures to encourage a **modal shift to rail and public transport**. The following points should be the **guiding principles** of EU transport policy-making in the next ten years:

- **Revitalise policies aimed at internalising external costs:** distance-based infrastructure pricing should become the norm for all surface transport, with pricing-in of local externalities in all modes.
- **Tackle the problem of air pollution, congestion and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:** electrified rail and electrified public transport need to be massively expanded while ensuring a seamless intermodal public transport chain.
- **Set up a transport pillar for EU's climate and energy policies:** make the 60% reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions from transport mandatory by including it in EU legislation.
- **Enable fair competition between aviation and rail** by exempting not just aviation, but also rail services from VAT on cross-border travel in all Member States.
- **Secure solid, sufficient and predictable funding of rail infrastructure** to close the gap between the actual state of the rail network and what is required in terms of maintenance, renewal, upgrades and new constructions, including funding to make stations, rolling stock and infrastructure more accessible for persons with reduced mobility.
- **Bring the Fourth Railway Package to a successful and coherent conclusion.**