CER

The Voice of European Railways

EU Year of Rail on course for scheduled departure

Last night, the European Parliament and Council reached a trialogue agreement on the European Year of Rail 2021. The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes this decision to put the spotlight on a transport mode with a strong track record in climate neutrality, energy efficiency, resilience, and innovation.

CER also welcomes the proposal for two feasibility studies, on the creation of a European label to promote goods transported by rail and on the idea of a rail connectivity index. CER expects that these studies will further showcase the benefits of rail transport for both passengers and freight across Europe and is ready to provide its input.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: "Declaring 2021 as European Year of Rail was a deliberate and most welcome decision to shine a light on rail's important role in achieving EU Green Deal objectives. We very much welcome today's decision paving the way for many engaging activities in 2021. We will certainly contribute in promoting rail to get more people and goods on tracks."

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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 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 policymakers 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 on Twitter.