

Press release

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European Railway Sector welcomes European Parliament vote on public procurement reform

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes the approval by the European Parliament of its own-initiative report on public procurement. The report sets out recommendations for the upcoming reform of the EU public procurement framework, a file of strategic importance for the railway sector, where tenders play a key role in delivering competitive and sustainable transport services. CER appreciates the efforts of the Rapporteur, the Shadow Rapporteurs and all Members of the European Parliament involved in this important and complex work.

CER shares most of the views included in the Parliament's position, notably the need for simpler and more flexible rules that allow contracting authorities to adapt procedures to different contexts while ensuring transparency and legal certainty. Currently, railways operating as public companies face strict procurement obligations, with tender procedures that may last several years. In an increasingly competitive environment, these lengthy procedures can limit their ability to respond quickly to passengers' and business customers' needs.

CER will publish a dedicated position paper later this month outlining the sector's detailed views and proposals for the reform.

CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola said: *"Public procurement rules have a direct impact on the railway sector's ability to deliver quality, sustainable, and affordable services for passengers and businesses. Today's vote is an important step forward, and we are encouraged to see recognition of the need for simpler and more flexible rules, which are essential to significantly shorten procedures and quickly respond to customer needs. CER looks forward to engaging with EU institutions to ensure that the upcoming reform delivers a framework that is fair, efficient, and fit for the future."*

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About CER

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together around 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 78% of the rail network length, 81% of the rail freight business and about 94% 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 us on Twitter [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cer).