Press Release
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European rail infrastructure CEOs address resilient networks and long-term investment certainty

European rail infrastructure CEOs from the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and the the Association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) have called for greater investment certainty and stronger cross-border cooperation to ensure Europe's rail network can withstand growing climate, security and operational challenges. Meeting at the annual CER-EIM High-Level Infrastructure Meeting, CEOs stressed that resilience must become a central consideration in how rail infrastructure is planned, maintained and developed.

This year's discussions focused on two closely connected priorities: strengthening the resilience of Europe's rail infrastructure in times of crisis and ensuring that the future EU budget provides the investment conditions needed to develop, renew and modernise the network.

Rail infrastructure is increasingly exposed to interconnected risks, from extreme weather and natural hazards to cyberattacks, physical threats and operational disruptions. Across the sector, infrastructure managers are strengthening cooperation by sharing experience and best practices on crisis preparedness, cross-border coordination and the rapid restoration of capacity, recognising that disruptions increasingly extend beyond individual networks and national borders. Participants stressed that resilience planning needs to go further and become a guiding principle in transport policy and funding decisions. Measures should encourage stronger coordination between infrastructure managers, railway undertakings and authorities, particularly across borders, and reflect their collective expertise.

At the same time, robust infrastructure remains an essential foundation of resilience and rail infrastructure managers face major investment needs to maintain and modernise existing networks, increase capacity, complete the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and improve cross-border connections. Against the backdrop of discussions on the future EU budget, CER and EIM underline the need for adequate and predictable long-term funding, with a strong Connecting Europe Facility complemented by national and other European financing instruments. Investment in resilient rail infrastructure is not only about protecting railway assets: it safeguards reliable passenger and freight services, strengthens capacity and connectivity, and supports Europe's economic, security and strategic independence.

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This year's High-Level Infrastructure Meeting (HLIM) took place in Zurich on 18 November 2026 on the invitation of SBB Infrastructure. Co-organised by CER and EIM, the HLIM serves as an annual platform for Infrastructure Managers to share experiences, exchange best practices, and promote joint solutions to improve Europe's rail network and strengthen the role of rail as the backbone of sustainable and resilient mobility.

CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola said: *"Europe needs a rail network that can withstand disruption while continuing to support passengers, freight, the economy and Europe's strategic needs. Resilience must therefore become a core principle in how we plan, maintain and develop rail infrastructure, from adapting to climate risks to addressing cyber and physical threats. Resilience, however, cannot be delivered without investment. Stable, predictable and long-term funding is crucial to strengthen existing networks and build the capacity and resilience Europe will need in the years ahead."*

EIM Executive Director Monika Heiming said: *"Well-funded rail infrastructure is essential for Europe's mobility, economic competitiveness and security. As infrastructure managers, we must be able to anticipate risks, respond effectively to disruptions and ensure the continuity of rail services, including across borders. This requires closer European cooperation, but also a clear and long-term commitment to investment. The next EU budget must reflect these ambitions, with a strong and adequately funded Connecting Europe Facility to support the modernisation, capacity and resilience of Europe's rail network."*

Contact Person	**About CER**
Laura Henry CER Head of Communications E: laura.henry@cer.be M: +32 491 16 21 73	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 diverse and comprehensive membership made up of long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public enterprises, covers the large majority of the rail infrastructure network, rail freight business and 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 resilient, competitive, and sustainable transport system in Europe.
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Sandrine Roussel Manager of Internal Affairs: E: sandrine.roussel@eimrail.org M: +32 492 29 94 73	EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following the liberalisation of the EU railway market. It also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies such as the European Railway Agency. EIM's primary goal is promoting growth of rail traffic and the development of an open sustainable, efficient, customer orientated rail network in Europe. For further info, please consult www.eimrail.org.