

## PROGRAMME

### Funding the single European Rail Area

Can we achieve seamless rail transport across Europe?

**Tuesday, 19 March 2019**

**18:30 - 21:00**

**Residence Palace**

*Rue de la Loi 155 - 1040 Brussels*

**18:00 Registration & Welcome cocktail**

**18:30 Opening by moderator**

**Libor Lochman**, CER Executive Director

**Keynote speech**

**Dragos Virgil Titea**, State Secretary, Romanian Ministry of Transport

**Panel discussion**

**Marian-Jean Marinescu**, MEP (EPP, RO), Transport and Tourism Committee

**Elisabeth Werner**, Director Land Transport, European Commission

**Mathieu Grosch**, Orient-East Med TEN-T Coordinator

**Closing remarks**

**20:00 Walking dinner**

#### Event background

The resources allocated to rail transport in the **2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework** will play a key role in ensuring that Europe's transport system as a whole efficiently supports the EU's economic growth. In addition to the Connecting Europe Facility, the Cohesion Fund and the European Fund for Regional Development have been essential in **ensuring that poorer regions in Europe and cohesion countries invest in rail projects**, and that social cohesion and connectivity is strengthened across all parts of the European Union and neighbouring countries.

Will the next EU budget be able to support these investment needs despite the risk of budget cuts in a post-Brexit environment? In the face of proposed cuts to the cohesion fund, will poorer regions in Europe be able to continue investing in rail projects in order to **enable seamless rail transport across all regions of Europe**? How do we ensure that the wider benefits from rail transport will not be forgotten?