

Press release

Brussels, 08 December 2021



Building back better with rail

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and Slovenian Railways (SZ), in cooperation with the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU, will hold today an event entitled “Building back better with rail”. Taking place a few days before the publication of the new legislative proposal for the revision of the Regulation on Europe’s transport network (TEN-T), this event provides the perfect opportunity to take stock of the priorities of national recovery programmes, and the best possible allocation of future funding.

In 2020, in response to the COVID pandemic that hit EU economies, the European Commission and EU Member States mobilised massive resources, on a scale never before seen in EU history. This Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is now making the transition towards a greener, more digital economy more achievable through the funding of projects in Member States' National Recovery Plans. The European mobility sector finds itself playing a central role both in making itself more sustainable and enabling other sectors of the EU economy to count on more sustainable logistics.

Keynote speaker Jernej Vrtovec, the Slovenian Minister for Infrastructure, and panellists Kristian Schmidt, Land Transport Director at the European Commission’s DG MOVE, Jean-Marian Marinescu, EPP Coordinator in the European Parliament TRAN Committee, and Dr. Peter Verlič, Director of the SŽ Institute of Traffic and Transport Ljubljana, will discuss the priorities of national recovery programmes and the optimal destinations for future funding to achieve the objectives and targets of the **Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy** and **to complete the TEN-T Network**.

CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola looks forward to an interesting discussion on these topics noting that *“the boost given to many rail projects by the Recovery and Resilience Facility is a recognition of the role that rail can play for the green and digital transition of the EU economy. The revision of the TEN-T Regulation will have to set the right standards and the right destinations of CEF resources, which combined with RRF ones can contribute to achieve the goal of an even more efficient and finally interoperable continental rail infrastructure for both passenger and freight traffic”*.

The event starts at 18:30 CET. For more on how to follow it [click here](#).

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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 73% 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 us on Twitter [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cer).