

Press release

Brussels, 4 May 2022



Help - not hinder - public transport's ability to deliver Green Deal Goals!

In a joint statement on the proposal by the European Commission for a revision of the Interpretative Guidelines on Regulation (EC) No 1370 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road ('PSO Regulation'), the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), together with a broad coalition of transport stakeholders, calls on the Commission to take into account the critical issues raised and to consult the sector in the further drafting process.

The PSO Regulation sets out the conditions under which transport operators can be compensated or given exclusive rights by public authorities to provide public transport services in the general interest. The Interpretative Guidelines concerning the PSO Regulation are therefore of great importance for the railway sector as they ensure coherent application of the Regulation's provisions. The coalition, composed of CCRE-CEMR, CER, EMTA, Eurocities, Polis, SGI Europe and UITP, welcomes the Commission's initiative to revise the Interpretative Guidelines, which is needed to provide consistency and a clear framework at EU level. However, the coalition cannot support the current version of the text as it would create substantial uncertainty for the sector.

While the Guidelines can only be qualified as a soft law instrument, the revised text as it stands suggests new legal concepts and obligations which go beyond the provisions of the PSO Regulation and established judicial practice, limiting the discretion of the Member States and public transport authorities to provide, commission and organise public transport services, and affecting the well-functioning organisation of public transport in Europe.

In the joint statement, the coalition calls on the Commission not to hinder the public transport sector's ability to deliver on Green Deal goals and to avoid undermining the respective legal framework, especially at a time when the sector's efforts are focused on sustainable recovery from the pandemic and a just transition to a climate-neutral, resilient Europe for all.

Read the full statement [here](#).

Contact person

Cliona Cunningham
CER Head of Communications
E: cliona.cunningham@cer.be
M: +32 491 16 21 73

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 79% of the rail network length, 77% of the rail freight business and about 90% 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).