

Press release

Berlin, 21 September 2022



Digital Automatic Coupling – a key element for the digital transformation of the European railway system – sector statement

Today in Berlin, Alberto Mazzola, Executive Director of the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) presented, on behalf of the European railway stakeholders, the “2022 DAC Sector Statement - Digital Automatic Coupling – a key element for the digital transformation of the European railway system” to Henrik Hololei, European Commission Director General for Mobility and Transport.

This Sector Statement on the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC) showcases the need, and the advantages, to roll-out this innovative device across the European railway system in an accelerated and concerted manner, presents the commitment of the European railway sector and calls the European Commission, the Member States, and the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) to action.

The signatories of the statement are the European railway stakeholders **AERRL, ALE, ALLRAIL, CER, EAL, EIM, FEDECRAIL, NB RAIL, UIP, UIRR, UITP, UIC, and UNIFE.**

According to the European railway sector, the DAC is not a simple upgrade programme for the rolling-stock for railway freight transport, it is the **key element for digital transformation** with benefits for the entire railway system and society.

Alberto Mazzola underlined to the European Commission, Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking (ERJU) and the European Union Agency for Railways that it is important to work together to realise a successful deployment of DAC, and that a concerted approach, supported by the Commission, the ERJU and the Agency together with the sector is needed.

CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola said: *“the European railway sector is fully committed to contribute to the successful and stepwise development of the DAC by 2030. The competitiveness of rail freight relies on investments in rail infrastructure and on digital innovation. The timely deployment of DAC will certainly contribute to the much needed and called for increase of the rail market share. Its success will depend on whether the appropriate funding is secured, a sound migration and financing concept is collectively developed, and mature technology is available to allow a rapid roll-out in the European countries concerned. We are striving to fulfil all these conditions”.*

The 2022 DAC Sector Statement can be found [here](#) on the CER website.

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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).