

Press release

Berlin, 21 September 2022



European rail CEOs meet with EU Transport Commissioner to discuss impact of energy prices on the sector

On 20 September, leading rail CEOs from the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure companies (CER) met with the European Commissioner for Transport, Adina Vălean for a productive exchange of views and strategic vision on a variety of transport related policy topics, with a particular focus on the impact of energy prices on the sector. CER called for rail to be identified as a strategic service which should be prioritised in the supply of energy as a short-term measure, as well as for price caps on energy for rail transportation to be introduced in emergency legislation aimed at tackling rising end-user energy costs, and finally for reducing rail undertakings' costs through subsidy schemes.

The meeting also allowed a constructive and positive exchange between the Commissioner and CER members on the topic of ticketing. CER reiterated the voluntary efforts the sector is making to address the further improvement of the customer experience when planning, booking, and travelling internationally by rail. It was agreed that further dialogue on this topic is important and will be prioritised.

CER published its Ticketing Roadmap – a long-term vision for seamless passenger experience – in October 2021.

CER Chair Andreas Matthä (CEO of Austrian Federal Railways ÖBB) said: *"The dramatic increase of energy prices endangers rail's share in the modal split and thus the European climate protection goals themselves. The European railway sector needs a secure, affordable and predictable energy supply for rail transport. I call on the European Commission to extend the temporary crisis framework for state aid adopted after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. I also support a short-term intervention in the electricity market through price caps for energy".*

CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola said: *"We would like to thank Commissioner Vălean and her team for this opportunity to discuss important issues which are vital to the rail sector. CER will continue to implement the CER Ticketing Roadmap to improve the rail passenger experience, and to exchange with the European Commission on this topic. In these challenging times, rail underpins the environmental, but also the economic and social sustainability of our continent."*

Further information on the CER ticketing Roadmap can be found [here](#) on the CER website.

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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 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).