



Press Release

Brussels, 17th April 2020

- For immediate release -

The undersigned European associations - representing infrastructure managers, railway operators, intermodal companies, wagon keepers and the rail supply industry - jointly:

- Welcome the Resolution of the European Parliament on COVID-19 and the proposed massive recovery and reconstruction package for investment to support the European economy after the crisis;
- Remind that also the rail sector has a crucial, strategic and innovative role to play during and after the crisis. Rail infrastructure, rail freight and intermodal services, as well as its rail supply industry ensure the cross-border delivery of essential goods and other critical commodities and prove to be critical actors and assets;
- Underline that rail passenger services continue to provide key services for crucial workers during the crisis;
- Reassure that the protection of rail passengers and staff remains an unquestionable priority also under these exceptional circumstances; while reminding that, in a situation with no revenues and increasing requests for refund, temporary flexibility in paying ticket or passes refunds is needed to reduce the risk of cash-flow issues.
- Call on the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States to further support high performing rail infrastructure and transport operators, as well as a competitive rail supply industry, so that they can quickly resume business activities as soon as the crisis is over;
- Advocate ongoing support for the rail sector also beyond the COVID-19 period in order to support the sector's digital transformation and sustainable transition. By doing so, the rail sector can make a substantial contribution to the European Green Deal, the Single European Rail Area and the resilience and the development of multimodal logistics;
- Conclude that rail transport connects businesses and people in normal and exceptional times in a reliable manner and that it is committed to become a sustainable, innovative, seamless transport backbone for Europe.



For further information, please contact:

<p>Nick Brooks Secretary General ALLRAIL asbl Tel +32 485 832 991 Email: info@allrail.eu</p>	<p>ALLRAIL represents new entrants to the rail market, who want open access and fair market conditions, and sustains their role of pushing forward the development of the railway market. The members of ALLRAIL share a commitment to work towards a competitive and innovative single European railway market. ALLRAIL was established end of March 2017 in Brussels and to date represents 12 members from across Europe: Leo Express, MTR, NTV Italo, Omio, Regiojet, WESTbahn, Stagecoach, Transdev, ILSA, FromAtoB, GetLink and FlixTrain. For more information, follow @ALLRAIL_EU on Twitter</p>
<p>Dr Libor Lochman Executive Director CER T +32 2 2130 871 M +32 496 599 313</p>	<p>The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 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 71% 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 @CER_railways on Twitter.</p>
<p>Monika Heiming Executive Director EIM aisbl T.: +32 2 234 37 70 E.: monika.heiming@eimrail.org Twitter: @eimrail Web: www.eimrail.org</p>	<p>EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the independent Infrastructure Managers in Europe, following liberalisation of the railway market. It also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies such as the European Union Agency for Railways. EIM's primary goal is promoting growth of rail traffic and the development of an open, sustainable, efficient and customer orientated rail network in Europe.</p>
<p>Conor Feighan Secretary General ERFA Phone: +32 2 513 60 87 Mobile: +32 470 11 66 46 Website: www.erfarail.eu</p>	<p>ERFA represents 30 private and independent railway companies from across Europe. ERFA's aim is to foster an attractive business environment for rail freight services in Europe. All members fully commit to the creation of a competitive, nondiscriminatory and innovative Single European Railway Area. For more information, visit www.erfarail.eu</p>
<p>Julia Kremer Manager of European Policies and Public Affairs UIP E: julia.kremer@uiprail.org T: +32 2 672 8847</p>	<p>Founded in 1950, the UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers, domiciled in Brussels, is the umbrella association of national associations from fourteen European countries, thus representing more than 250 independent wagon keepers with approximately 200.000 freight wagons, performing 50 % of the rail freight tonne-kilometres throughout Europe. UIP represents the members' concerns at international level. By means of research, lobbying and focused cooperation with all stakeholders and organisations interested in rail freight transportation, the UIP wants to secure in the mid and long term the future of rail freight transport. For more information, visit www.uiprail.org.</p>
<p>Ralf-Charley Schultze President UIRR E: rcschultze@uirr.com T: +32 2 548 78 90</p>	<p>Who is UIRR? Founded in 1970, the International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR) represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transshipment Terminal Managers. Road-Rail Combined Transport (CT) is a system of freight forwarding which is based on efficiently and economically inserting electric rail into long-distance (road) transport chains through the use of intermodal loading units (ILU). For more information, visit www.uirr.com.</p>
<p>Tommaso Spanevello Public Affairs Manager UNIFE Tommaso.Spanevello@unife.org</p>	<p>UNIFE represents the European Rail Supply Industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers over 100 of Europe's leading large and medium-sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. UNIFE also brings together 14 national rail industry associations of European countries. UNIFE members have an 84% market share in Europe and supply 46% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services. For more information, visit www.unife.org or follow @unife on Twitter.</p>