



DAC Sector Statement

Brussels, 10.07.2023

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU's greening targets

There is a common understanding of the need to strengthen rail freight in Europe, which is in decline today. It is nine times better in terms of CO₂ emissions than road transport and will help Europe in achieving its Green Deal and decarbonisation targets. Electrification of road transport is far from being mature and cost-effective and will still consume seven times more energy than freight transport on rail.

Automation and digitalisation will enable rail freight to become more efficient and attractive for logistics service providers and shippers and will bring relevant benefits for European society in general. It will increase the still underestimated growth potential for single wagonload traffic and strengthen the role of intermodal transport, both strategic segments for the modal shift. Especially, together with future ERTMS developments, they will contribute to increase infrastructure capacity. Their implementation will also increase safety at work and counter the predicted labour shortage in the sector by replacing outdated, mostly manually-operated technologies of the past, especially the coupling of freight wagons.

The rail sector stakeholder signatories of this paper are convinced that rail freight automation and digitalisation as well as a better, more modern and safer working environment are key to the viability and long-term prospect of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

However, the market alone cannot bear such a transformation, and no single company will be able to gather alone the necessary capital investments for such an endeavour, because it is first and foremost a European scale type of investment. Should social and economic benefits materialise, substantial public support is therefore urgently needed, especially for the introduction of the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC) and its associated automation and digital technology.

We are fully committed to achieve the deployability of this technology through intensive testing campaigns and we are ready, under a clearly pre-defined EU strategy and with fulfilment of the below preconditions, to the successive deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology at European scale. A challenge of this dimension would indeed require the support from the European Commission and the Members States, to ensure that all the necessary investments are properly coordinated and that obvious market failures are addressed by the policy-makers, such as the imbalanced distribution of costs and benefits among actors, and counter-balanced with appropriate funding and financing measures.

Where we are today

Progress has been made so far by the rail sector in developing state-of-the-art DAC technology, including with the support from the European Union and Member States. The rail freight sector from both EU and non-EU countries and the European supply industry are fully engaged and have already invested significant resources to develop a European state-of-the-art DAC including its automation and digital technology.



- The sector has united forces in the European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP), enabled by Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-Rail JU), and supported strongly by the European Commission (EC) and the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA). EDDP has specified the basic DAC technology, developed a draft migration plan and elaborated the initial versions of the DAC Cost-Benefit-Analysis (CBA).
- 71 partners are engaged in the DAC and automation technology development within EU-Rail JU's Flagship Project 5 (FP 5-TRANS4M-R) with a total project cost of around € 95 million, a major part of which is raised by the sector.

This intended and unprecedented transformation impacts the entire rail freight system, including its customers. As rail freight is largely international and essential for the realisation of the Single European Railway Area, careful planning, scoping and good coordination are key to master the deployment of European DAC including its automation and digital technology.

The historical situation of the European rail freight vehicle fleet needs to be taken into account in an intelligent way in order to minimise the transformation challenges and to optimise the need for public funding. The following preconditions are currently being worked out by the sector and will have to be implemented under a clear EU deployment strategy. They must be fulfilled before DAC deployment can start:

- DAC, its automation and digital technology and operational procedures have to be clearly defined and harmonised (single operational, mechanical, electrical and digital European DAC system).
- Clear evidence has to be available through successfully completed tests and validation in real operation, demonstrating that the final DAC and its automation and digital technology will deliver the expected benefits. All essential requirements (in particular reliability, availability, maintainability and safety, under all relevant climatic and operational conditions) have to be met. This evidence, including on maintenance cost, forms the basis for the final update of the CBA and the revision of the relevant Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs) and standards.
- A single, non-discriminatory, European funding and financing scheme, set up jointly by the EC as well as EU and non-EU countries, has to be guaranteed for the whole DAC migration period to cover the upgrading of existing wagons and locomotives and other asset-related and operational expenditure related to the DAC introduction. The funding rate must avoid any deterioration of the competitiveness of the European rail freight sector in general and its individual members. It should also reflect the time lag between investments and the full realisation of benefits.
- In coordination with the European Union Agency for Railways, suitable DAC authorisation provisions need to apply in Europe without compromising safety. With the help of the sector, authorisation risks for wagons and locomotives have to be mitigated (including availability of relevant documentation) in order to avoid negative impacts on the fleet availability during the (re-)authorisation process.
- A sound, realistic migration plan has to be set up, agreed by all actors, backed up by legal provisions and coordinated at EU level in close cooperation with EU and non-EU countries. It must guarantee effective DAC deployment in Europe, based on substantial funding, established



capacities for production, the feasibility of upgrading of wagons and locomotives and for their (re-)authorisation, staff training and availability of the necessary infrastructure and IT adaptations.

- The plan must allow a certain limited flexibility for the transitional coexistence of screw coupler and automatic coupler, for dealing with freight wagons from non-EU countries and with the fully separable parts of the European wagon fleet, e. g. wagons used in block-train and intermodal production systems only. It must minimise shortages of rolling stock impacting railway operators and customers during migration, risking a reverse modal shift. It shall determine for the vehicle keeper an economic and technical optimum between screw coupler, DAC and automation/digital technology upgrading and the scrapping/renewal of rolling stock, in particular locomotives and intermodal wagons. The integration of fleets/vehicles, mainly operated on networks functionally separate from the rest of the Union rail system (e. g. different gauge), must be subject (and conditional) to a case-by-case CBA, considering traffic flows and national specificities and lead to a positive outcome.

Such a plan will allow for a maximum positive impact of DAC and its automation and digital technology on European rail freight, ensuring the highest level of interoperability possible under the given economically reasonable circumstances, whilst requiring minimised transformation cost and optimised public funding. It will ensure the buy-in of all sector actors to fully endorse such transformation.

What needs to be done now

The European rail freight sector is working continuously on fulfilling the above-described DAC deployment preconditions on its side.

In parallel, the signatories of this paper, who are already engaged and committed to work jointly on the solution to address the challenges described to make such transformation happen, would like to collaborate with the European Commission and the Member States to ensure that DAC implementation is aligned with national as well as EU strategies, and in particular with the next European Multi-Annual Financial Framework, so that preparation for the migration of the DAC and its automation technology could start in 2028.

We call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start the work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology, ensuring substantial public support for the upcoming phases, in full complementarity with the necessary ERTMS and infrastructure investments:

1. **DAC Legal Package** *from now until ca. 2028*
Creation of the **legal & budgetary framework** for DAC Deployment including authorisation and for the DAC Deployment Management Entity on the EU and Member State level.
2. **DAC Pre-Deployment** *2025 to ca. 2028 | total costs ca. € 210 million*
Funding of a large-scale testing phase across Europe for DAC based technology with around 100 pre-deployment trains to prepare a successful migration and to start DAC industrialisation.



Setting up of a **Pre-deployment Management Entity**.

- 3. **DAC Deployment** *as of ca. 2028* | total costs ca. € 13 billion (2021 price base)
Funding of full-scale **DAC deployment** in Europe and the **Deployment Management Entity**.

We are convinced of the need to set up a **centralised European Deployment Management Entity, for the necessary coordination at European level**, as described in the EU-Rail JU's EU DAC Investment Plan study. We recommend that the European Commission proposes a suitable implementation plan for this. A European benchmark could be the Joint Undertaking for the Single European Sky Air traffic management Research (SESAR).

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Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

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Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

29/06/2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Juan Diego Pedrero
Presidente Ejecutivo AEFP

AEFP. Asociación de Empresa Ferroviarias Privadas

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Acting Director-General

June 28th, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Yours sincerely,



Henri Poupart-Lafarge
Chief Executive Officer

ALSTOM

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30th June 2023**Copy to :**

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Yours sincerely,

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Udo Hamann
Managing Director

Seite 1 von 1

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European Commission
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Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Brussels, June 30, 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, BeWag and all its members unanimously, fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). Our members range from railway undertakings to wagon keepers, shippers, combined transport operators and terminal operators to certification bodies.

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

**Frédéric
Buyse
(Signature)**

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+02:00

Frédéric Buyse
President of Bewag



Created in 1946, BEWAG is the Belgian association of the railway wagons industry based in Brussels. Our members are Wagon keepers, Railway Workshops, Certification bodies, ECM (Entity in charge of the Maintenance), Innovation companies and experts, Connected companies & sidings, Users of railfreight transport, Logistic operators, Combined Transport Terminals and Railway outfit manufacturer.

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Acting Director-General

3 July 2023

Re: Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joost Naessens".

Joost Naessens

Director Transport & Logistics

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Acting Director-General

27 June 2023


Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Laurence ZENNER
CEO CFL cargo s.a.



Dr. Sigrid Nikutta
CEO

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Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG
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Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

26th June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sigrid Evelyn Nikutta
CEO DB Cargo AG

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Dr. Daniela Gerd tom Markotten
Member of the Management Board
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Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

06/28/2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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Yours sincerely,

Dr. Daniela Gerd tom Markotten

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Acting Director-General

Wednesday the 28th of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

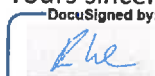
Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Peter Woxblom
CEO and President

6/29/2023

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Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Madrid, 29th June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Yours sincerely,

Carlos
Omaña
Pozo

Digitally signed by: Carlos
Omaña Pozo
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Carlos Omaña
Secretary of FAPROVE (Spanish Wagon Keepers and Operators Association)



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27.06.2023

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely

Olaf Feldbinder
Geschäftsführer

Firmato digitalmente da

Silvio Damagini

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Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane
UA 5/7/2023
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Roma, 05/07/2023

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Yours sincerely,

Silvio Damagini
CEO and General Manager

MERCITALIA Rail S.r.l.
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June 27th, 2023

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Yours sincerely,



Johann Feindert
CEO

DR. JÜRGEN WILDER
MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
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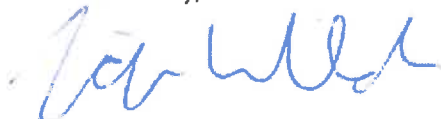
Munich, June 27th, 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Jürgen Wilder
Member of the Executive Board
Knorr-Bremse AG

Moosacher Strasse 80
80809 Munich, Germany
Phone: +49 89 3547-0
E-Mail: info@knorr-bremse.com

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IBAN: DE53 7007 0010 0185 4421 00

Commerzbank AG
SWIFT: DRESDE33
IBAN: DE97 7008 0000 0300 8150 00

UniCredit Bank AG
SWIFT: HYVEDE33
IBAN: DE53 7002 0270 0046 2449 07

Executive Board: Marc Listoszejka (Chairman), Dr. Claudia Mayfeld, Bernd Spies, Frank Markus Weber, Dr. Jürgen Wilder
Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Dr. Reinhard Ploss

Registered Seat: Munich · Register Court: Munich, HR B 42 031
USt-ID: DE 129 273 865



European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

23/06/2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard Guéfin - Executive Chairman on behalf of B-G SRL



European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

07 07 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Director General



Eglė Šimė

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :**European Parliament**

Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Lisbon, 27th of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Bruno Miguel Abreu da Silva
Managing Director

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Luxemburg 27th of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Yours sincerely,



Mark REMIE
CCO

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

ÖBB-Holding AG
Ing. Mag. (FH) Andreas Matthä
CEO

Am Hauptbahnhof 2
1100 Vienna
Austria

andreas.matthae@oebb.at

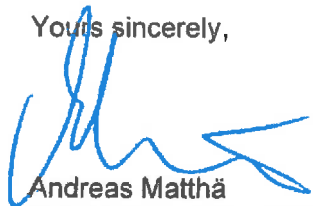
Vienna, 26.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Andreas Matthä
Chief Executive Officer
ÖBB-Holding AG



Gesellschaft für Vermietung und Verwaltung von Eisenbahnwaggons

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

27.06.2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,


Heinz Peterkotz
CEO

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

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Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

27.06.2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

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Yours sincerely,

 / Yuriy Maslikov/

Director

Rail Cargo Austria AG, 1100 Wien, Am Hauptbahnhof 2

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
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Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Rail Cargo
Austria AG Dr.
Clemens Först
Vorstandssprecher
Mobil +43 664 829
5000
Clemens.foerst@railcargo.com
railcargo.com

Vienna, 26.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC). I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Clemens Först
Chief Executive Officer
ÖBB Rail Cargo Group

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

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Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Saint-Ouen, le 28 Juin 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European preparation of DAC and its automation and digital technology deployment.

Yours sincerely,

Frédéric DELORME

CEO

CEO SBB Cargo · · 4600 Olten

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)

Commissioner Adina Vălean

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200

B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

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Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers

Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)

Ms Maja Bakran Marcich

Acting Director-General

Olten, 30th of June 2023

DAC Sector Statement

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe. Therefore, I fully support the DAC Sector Statement.

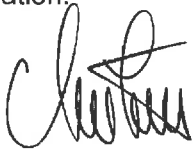
SBB Cargo has been one of the frontrunners in the development of the automatic coupler (AC) and we successfully use this technology in our daily business. We are advancing the preparatory works for the deployment of our national waggon and locomotive fleet. We are also engaged in the discussion on the implementation of public funding of deployment in Switzerland.

SBB Cargo AG

4600 Olten · Schweiz

alexander.muhm@sbb.ch · www.sbbcargo.com

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of automation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Muhm', written in a cursive style.

Alexander Muhm
CEO SBB Cargo

Siemens Mobility GmbH, Siemensstadt, Nonnendammallee 101, 13629 Berlin

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Name	Michael Peter
Department	GEO Siemens Mobility
Telephone	+49 (30) 5859-23999
Mobile	+49 (173) 5155674
E-mail	michaelmpeter@siemens.com
Date	July 7, 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Peter

Copy to :

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Siemens Mobility GmbH
Management: Karl Blaim, Michael Peter

Nonnendammallee 101
13629 Berlin
Germany

Tel.: +49 (30) 5859 0
www.siemens.com/mobility

Sdružení držitelů a provozovatelů drážních vozidel, z.s.

Association of Keepers and Operators of Railway Vehicles, z.s. (CZ)

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

European Parliament

Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

30.06.2023, Děčín, CZ

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

However, it is necessary to realize that the basic criterion for customers' decisions is the price of transport and the costs of introducing DAC are so high that it is impossible to expect that they will not be reflected in the price of rail freight transport and this may lead to a decrease in interest in rail freight transport.

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Ing, Pavel Škarabela

President of SPV

SPV

Dělnická 628/1a, Děčín VI-Letná, 405 02 Děčín
Registrace Krajským soudem v Ústí nad Labem
oddíl I, vložka 13504

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E-mail: sekretariat@sdruzeni-spv.cz

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it starts here.

European Commission

Stena Recycling

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

contact

Michael Carlsson

+46768149422

michael.s.carlsson@stenarecycling.se

Copy to :

European Parliament

Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Jönköping 30. Juni 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Carlsson
Logistics manager railway
Stena Recycling AB



European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport
Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Levallois-Perret, June 30, 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Zindo".

David Zindo
CEO Stroom Group

Stroom Group

4-10 avenue André Malraux
92300 Levallois-Perret, France

SAS au capital de 89 034 443,10 €
898 199 559 RCS Nanterre | TVA FR 90 898 199 559

www.stroomgroup.com

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European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :**European Parliament**

Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Dublin, 30 June 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"


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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Luc ARDETTI

Director

Touax Rail Limited



European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG
MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

TWA Kontakt
Per-Anders Benthin
CEO
T +41 41 729 41 68
M +41 79 729 07 41
pabenthin@transwaggon.ch

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European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport
Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG
MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Zug, 27. Juni 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”


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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,


Per-Anders Benthin
CEO

TRANSWAGGON AG



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

Mr. François Davenne
Tel + 33 (0)1 44 49 20 26
davenne@uic.org

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility &
Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council
of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility &
Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Paris, 28 June 2023

Re: Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely

François DAVENNE

Director General

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

European Parliament

Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Uitikon 28th of June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, we fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

We call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

With our parliamentary [motion on the automation and digitalisation of rail freight transport](#) we have also triggered this process in Switzerland and are in the midst of preparing a legal proposal for the Swiss Federal Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

VAP



Joseph Dittli

President, MP

Dr. Frank Furrer

Secretary general

VDV Köln Kamekestraße 37–39 50672 Köln

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to:

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Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish Presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

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I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,



Oliver Wolff
General Managing Director

Hauptgeschäftsführer

Oliver Wolff
T 0221 57979-101
E wolff@vdv.de

28 June 2023

**Wir lieben
EUROPA**



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Nous aimons l'Europe
Noi amiamo l'Europa
Kochamy Europę*

www.vdv.de/wirliebeneuropa

**Verband Deutscher
Verkehrsunternehmen e. V.**

Hauptgeschäftsstelle
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AG Köln VR 4097

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Bundesregierung: R001242

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Vorstand

Präsident und Vizepräsidenten
Ingo Wortmann (Präsident)
Joachim Berends
Tim Dahlmann-Resing
Werner Overkamp
Prof. Knut Ringat
Veit Salzmann

Hauptgeschäftsführer
Oliver Wolff

Haltestellen
Stadtbahn bis Friesenplatz,
Regionalzüge bis
Bahnhof Köln West

J.M. Voith SE & Co. KG | VTA, Postfach 20 30, 89510 Heidenheim, Germany

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
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European Commission
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Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Wawra **Wawra,** Digitally signed
Voith Group **Martin** by Wawra, Martin
Date: 2023.06.28
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EVP & CEO Mobility
Group Division Turbo
Division Mobility

**Chairman Supervisory Board of the
J.M. Voith Management SE**
Dr. Toralf Haag

**Board of the
J.M. Voith Management SE**
Andreas Endtters, Dr. Stefan Kampmann
Cornelius Weitzmann

General Partner
J.M. Voith Management SE
Reg.-Court Ulm, HRB 737231
Registered Office:
Heidenheim

Commercial Register
Reg.-Court Ulm, HRA 661052
VAT Reg.No. DE 183 806 108
Tax. No. 64004/08643
Registered Office:
Heidenheim

Banking Connection
Commerzbank AG, Filiale Aalen
Bank Code No. 614 400 86
Acc.No.1 011 766
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BIC / SWIFT-Code COBADEFF614

Voith Group
Group Division Turbo

Mailing address:
J.M. Voith SE & Co. KG | VTA
Alexanderstraße 2
89522 Heidenheim, Germany
Tel. +49 7321 37 0
Fax +49 7321 37 7000
www.voith.com

Your ref.
Your message
Our ref.
Phone
Fax
Date **2023-06-28**
E-mail

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

Copy to :

European Parliament

Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union

Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Hamburg, June 27th, 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

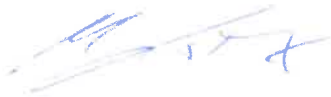
Dear Commissioner, dear Ms Vălean,

Rail freight automation and digitalisation is an important enabler for the transport sector to meet the EU greening target and to create more modern and safer work environments. They are key to the viability and long-term prospects of this sustainable mode of transport in Europe.

Therefore, I fully support the Sector Statement for the Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC).

I call on the European Commission and Member States to jointly start work on shaping the political, budgetary and legal framework conditions for a coordinated European deployment of DAC and its automation and digital technology.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Malte Lawrenz', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Malte Lawrenz
Chairman

VPI – VERBAND DER GÜTERWAGENHALTER IN DEUTSCHLAND E. V.

Mattentwiete 5
20457 Hamburg
Germany

T +49 40 2265921-0
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E mail@vpihamburg.de
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Vorsitzender: Malte Lawrenz
Vereinsregister Nr.: VR 21980
Steuer-Nr.: 17/438/01551
Ust-IdNr.: DE 814871455

Bankverbindung:
Postbank Hamburg
IBAN: DE74 2001 0020 0285 8992 08
SWIFT (BIC): PBNKDEFF

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Hamburg, 27.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Yours sincerely,



Sven Wellbrock
Chief Operating Officer Europe
Chief Safety Officer



European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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Committee on Transport and Tourism
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Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Paris, 27th June 2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PS", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Pascal Schweitzer
President, Wabtec Transit

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

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European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
Ms Karima Delli

Council of the European Union
Spanish presidency to the EU Council of Transport Ministers
Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Lucerne, June 28, 2023

Sector Statement "Digital Automatic Coupling"

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Yours sincerely,



Iris Hilb
CEO



Železničná spoločnosť Cargo Slovakia, a. s.
CEO Office
Tomášikova 28B, 821 01 Bratislava
www.zscargo.sk

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Commissioner Adina Vălean
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B-1049 Brussels

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Ms Raquel Sánchez

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility & Transport (DG MOVE)
Ms Maja Bakran Marcich
Acting Director-General

Bratislava, 27.06.2023

Sector Statement “Digital Automatic Coupling”

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Yours sincerely,

**Roman
Gono**

Digitálne podpísal
Roman Gono
Dátum: 2023.06.28
09:20:39 +02'00'

Roman Gono
Chairman of the BOD and CEO

Bank: Všeobecná úverová banka, a.s.
IBAN: SK93 0200 0000 0022 1485 1459
BIC: SUBASKBX

Company ID: 35914921
VAT No: SK 2021920065
Trade Register Bratislava III
par. Sa. Enclosure No: 3496/B

