JOINT PRESS RELEASE
24 November 2026

European Commission Approves the European Railway Platform

ALLRAIL, CER, ERFA, FEPORT, FTE, UIP and UIRR welcome the decision, allowing ERP to begin its work as the collective operational voice of railway infrastructure users.

The European Commission has approved the proposal for the European Railway Platform (ERP) submitted by ALLRAIL, CER, ERFA, FEPORT, FTE, UIP and UIRR on 11 June 2026. Following the Commission's positive assessment of the Platform's governance arrangements and Rules of Procedure, the ERP can now be formally established and begin its activities.

The ERP has been established under Regulation (EU) 2026/1184 on the use of railway infrastructure capacity in the Single European Railway Area. It will represent operational stakeholders other than infrastructure managers in the development of future European frameworks for capacity management, traffic management and performance review, ensuring that the needs of customers and market participants are effectively reflected in the future rules.

As provided in the Regulation, the proposal was assessed by the European Commission and the European Network of Rail Regulatory Bodies (ENRRB) to verify that it provides balanced representation of operational stakeholders other than infrastructure managers and that participation is based on equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory criteria.

Membership Now Open

With the Commission's approval secured, the European Railway Platform is now open for application to all eligible operational stakeholders.

Railway undertakings, applicants for infrastructure capacity, service facility operators and other users of railway infrastructure are invited to apply for membership and participate directly in shaping the future European frameworks developed under the Capacity Regulation.

Ready to Start Work

The founding associations are already preparing the inaugural ERP Plenary Assembly, which is expected to take place in the coming weeks.

The Platform's first major task will be to coordinate the views of market stakeholders on the draft European Framework for Capacity Management, which is expected to be published by the European Network of Infrastructure Managers (ENIM) later this year.

Once the draft framework is published, ERP will coordinate the input of operational stakeholders from across Europe and submit consolidated recommendations to ensure that the future framework reflects operational realities, customer needs and market expectations.

The organisations behind the initiative are convinced that effective cooperation between infrastructure managers and infrastructure users will be essential to achieving the objectives of the Capacity Regulation and delivering a more efficient, reliable and competitive European railway system.

Further information on the platform, membership, participation criteria and the application process is available at www.erp-rail.eu.

The ERP in More Detail

- **Inclusive by Design**

The ERP has been designed as an inclusive platform that brings together the full diversity of stakeholders across Europe. Particular attention has been given to ensuring that both established market actors and new entrants, as well as organisations with more limited resources, can participate on an equal footing.

- **Effective in Practice**

The Platform's governance structure ensures operational effectiveness through clear decision-making procedures, balanced representation and a lean organisational setup for a combination of openness and efficiency.

- **A Counterpart to ENIM – and a Strong Collective Voice for the Market**

The ERP fills a gap that no other body in the new governance architecture can fill. It provides a dedicated platform through which market participants can coordinate positions, develop common views and engage collectively on future European railway capacity, traffic management and performance review rules.

By bringing together a broad range of market participants, the ERP will serve as a counterpart to ENIM and will help ensure that future European frameworks combine technical expertise with a clear customer and market perspective.

Attributable quotes from partnering associations

Nick Brooks, Secretary General, ALLRAIL:

> *"ALLRAIL welcomes the establishment of the ERP as a platform capable of providing high-quality input on rail infrastructure capacity issues, which remains one of the key market barriers for new entrants. Thanks to the engagement of all stakeholders, the ERP provides a strong basis for balanced representation and should continue to ensure that new entrants have a meaningful voice as its work develops."*

Alberto Mazzola, Executive Director, CER:

> *"CER has strongly supported the establishment of the European Railway Platform from the outset and considers its successful implementation a key priority. The establishment of the European Railway Platform marks an important step towards translating the new EU capacity management framework into practice. By giving railway undertakings and other capacity applicants a strong and coordinated voice, the ERP will help ensure that market needs and operational experience are properly reflected in the implementation of the new rules. This will be essential to making rail capacity management more efficient, reliable and responsive to customers' needs."*

Maria Price, Secretary General, ERFA:

> *"ERFA remains convinced that ERP is a unique solution enabling market actors and infrastructure managers to work together to improve capacity management, operational performance and the competitiveness of rail freight. ERFA together with its members, the private and independent rail freight companies, stand ready to play their part in the activities of ERP."*

Lamia Kerdjoudj, Secretary General, FEPORT:

> *"Ports are essential parts in the logistics chain and for rail freight. As the main actors in charge of commercial and logistics related operations in EU ports, FEPORT members fully support the establishment of the ERP and its inclusive approach. They also welcome the possibility to be part of a platform that will coordinate positions to make the best use of railway capacities."*

Edgar Schenk, Managing Director, FTE:

> *"The European Commission has recognised ERP's inclusive approach and its ability to unite operational stakeholders across the rail sector. We now look forward to the inaugural Plenary Assembly and to working with ERP members to*

contribute with practical market requirements to the development of the European frameworks and other technical standards."

Gilles Peterhans, Secretary General, UIP:

"UIP welcomes the set-up of ERP – a truly multilateral forum – which is critical to ensure that capacity management operates seamlessly cross-border and will thus benefit shippers and the supply chain. As wagon keepers, we are looking forward to being part of a governance structure designed from the ground up to bring all operational stakeholders together on equal footing."

Ralf-Charley Schultze, Director General, UIRR:

"The successful integration of combined transport into the ERP is an important step towards a more inclusive and efficient European rail system. As the voice of the intermodal sector, UIRR particularly welcomes the recognition of terminal managers and other rail facilities, ensuring that their specific operational needs and perspectives are duly represented in the implementation of the ERP. Combined transport is the backbone of the entire transport system in Europe."

About the European Railway Platform (ERP)

The European Railway Platform (ERP) is the representative body of operational stakeholders other than infrastructure managers established under Regulation (EU) 2026/1184 on the use of railway infrastructure capacity in the Single European Railway Area. ERP provides a common platform for the railway market to coordinate positions and participate in the development of European frameworks relating to capacity management, traffic management and performance review.

For more information, visit **www.erp-rail.eu**.

About the Founding Organisations

ALLRAIL — the Alliance of Passenger Rail New Entrants — represents independent passenger operators active or seeking to operate open-access and public service obligation services across Europe along with other relevant independent companies in the rail sector. www.allrail.org



CER — the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies — represents railway undertakings and their national associations in Europe, operating passenger and freight services across the continent. www.cer.be

ERFA — the European Rail Freight Association — represents private and independent railway freight operators, advocating for a competitive and non-discriminatory Single European Railway Area. www.erfarail.eu

FEPORT — the Federation of European Private Port Operators and Terminals — represents private port and terminal operators with a vital interest in rail connectivity and multimodal logistics. www.feport.eu

FTE — Forum Train Europe — is the European association of rail infrastructure users, improving the regulatory and operational framework for capacity and traffic management. FTE serves as host of the ERP. www.forumtraineurope.eu

UIP — International Union of Wagon Keepers — is the umbrella association of national associations from 14 European countries, representing freight wagon keepers and Entities in Charge of Maintenance. www.uiprail.org

UIRR — the International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport — represents combined transport operators and promotes the shift of freight from road to rail through intermodal solutions. www.uirr.com

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