



The Voice
of European
Railways

European Rail
Infrastructure Managers



Press Release

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European Commission and the railways promote Public Private Partnerships in rail infrastructure

Financial experts from the European Commission and the rail sector discussed practical ways to promote the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in rail infrastructure projects in a jointly organised workshop in Brussels on 30 January.

The European Commission and the European Investment Bank are undertaking a number of initiatives aimed at promoting PPPs. The Loan Guarantee Instrument for TEN-T projects (LGTT) aims at facilitating the setting up of TEN-T projects under PPP schemes. The European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC), launched in September 2008, allows PPP taskforces in EU member states and candidate countries to share experiences, expertise, analyses and best practices.

The European rail sector organisations CER and EIM confirmed that PPPs provide innovative financial engineering opportunities, which could mobilise funding for key rail infrastructure projects. In order to reach this goal, building transparent partnerships with private contractors is of the utmost importance for rail companies. The private sector, represented by the companies Eurailtest, Global Infrastructure Service and Alstom, furthermore emphasised the need for clear and simple commercial structures and contractual frameworks.

Paul Guitink, Political Adviser for Central and Eastern Europe of the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), noted: "The rail sector supports the exchange of lessons learned and best practices in Public Private Partnerships. Policies aiming at the creation of a more sustainable transport system can only work if accompanied by adequate rail infrastructure financing. To be successful, however, Public Private Partnerships require a rewiring between the State and the market, shifting the paradigm from public service to service to the public."

Confronted with limited availability of public resources for rail infrastructure, some CER members, mainly from Central and Eastern European EU countries, are currently preparing business cases for PPP's in rail infrastructure - for example in Poland, Romania, and the Czech Republic. Several EIM members in Western Europe are making active use of PPPs to finance innovative projects already: Infrabel's Liefkenshoek Rail Connection is for example aimed at improving the Port of Antwerp's connection to the main rail network. RFF, the French Infrastructure Manager is also bringing in private investment to develop the South Europe Atlantic Link project, which will reduce journey times from Bordeaux to Paris, and open up access to the Iberian peninsula.

Upon returning from a seminar in Bucharest on this same topic, where he launched EIM's new finding the funds brochure, Michael Robson, Secretary General of the European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) said: "Public Private Partnerships should play a substantial role in the financing of Trans-European Transport Networks, innovation and research & development. The railways are strongly committed to promote this tool and I believe that today's meeting is an important step forward for reaching this goal".



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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 European railway undertakings and infrastructure companies. CER represents the interests of its members vis-à-vis the European institutions as well as other policy makers and transport actors. CER's main focus is promoting the strengthening of rail as essential to the creation of a sustainable transport system which is efficient, effective and environmentally sound. For more information, see www.cer.be

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EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following liberalisation of the railway market. It is a lobbying organisation which also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies. To find out more about EIM, visit www.eimrail.org