



Press Release 22.01.2008

En-Route to Rail Sustainability Conference

The European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) along with the Partner Organisations European Federation of Trackworks Contractors (EFRTC), European Rail Freight Customer Platform (ERFCP) & International Union of Railways (UIC) wish to support long-term financial stability and the creation of a level playing field in the transport sector. The many reasons for this, including the beneficial impact longer-term planning would have on the environment, will be explored during the En-Route to Rail Sustainability Conference 13th of February 2008 at Sofitel Brussels Europe.

The programme features many exciting speakers, including MEPs Michael Cramer and Anne E Jensen. EIM and its Partner Organisations are also pleased to announce that Peter Verlic, the Slovenian Secretary of Transport will speak on the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency. The European Commissioner for Transport Jacques Barrot will close the day, speaking on "Greening the Transport Sector".

A predictable planning environment for all stakeholders and especially the infrastructure managers is imperative to achieve efficiency in long-term spending on the network. This cannot be reached if there is no clear strategy for the use of the network or the required level of performance. Multi-Annual Contracts can increase the financial stability of the Infrastructure Managers, among others by minimising the "stop/go" effect of annual state appropriations, and also allows the railways customer's and supplier's to investment in research and equipment on a long term basis.

Dr. Imrich Korpanec, Secretary General EFRTC said, "It is in vital interest of the members of European Federation of Trackworks Contractors (EFRTC) to be involved in long term planning and funding of railway infrastructure jointly with our clients – the infrastructure managers. We strongly believe that the sound and long term cooperation with our clients in an open and competitive market would undoubtedly increase the efficiency of contractors' works and further reduce the costs."

Having established a sustainable, competitive rail network through better planning and financing, the rail market share should become more significant. This is essential to the debate of a sustainable transport policy and its framework. Equally important when discussing the framework and rail freight success, is the establishment of an intra -and intermodal level playing field. This is one of EIM's main missions and it is clear to us all that we must take further action for this to happen.

Michael Robson, EIM's Secretary General said, "Eurovignette is an important instrument to achieve this and I look forward to seeing the EC proposals later this year. The road industry produces unnecessary pollutants every minute of every day. It is now time to act to ensure that these costs are accounted for. EIM believes the polluter must pay".



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Notes to the Editor:

For further information on the EIM Conference En-Route to Rail Sustainability 13 of February:

<http://www.eimrail.org/program.html>

To register your attendance to the EIM Conference En-Route to Rail Sustainability:

<http://www.eimrail.org/registration.html>

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