

Press Release 22.01.2008

**The European Parliament has voted yes to Rail Sector recommendations today**

***The Transport Committee of the European Parliament voted today on the own initiative report of Gabriele ALBERTINI (MEP) on Sustainable Transport Policy. The European Rail Infrastructure Manager's (EIM) generally supported the report and a number of amendments proposed to it. The main concern was the amendment referring to the Eurovignette Directive. MEPs have followed the recommendations of the rail sector (EIM-CER-UNIFE) by deleting the "if necessary" in paragraph 11 as shown below:***

*11. The Parliament urges the Commission to submit, by June 2008 at the latest, a comprehensible, transparent generally applicable model for assessing the external costs of all modes of transport, on which to base future calculation of the charges to be paid for the use of infrastructure; observes that, under Directive 2006/38/EC, that model must be accompanied by an analysis of the impact of internalising external costs for all modes of transport and by a strategy for phasing in the model for all modes of transport; and looks to the Commission, alongside the above initiative, **if necessary**, to produce legislative proposals starting with the revision of the Eurovignette Directive;*

EIM welcomes this positive sign that is one very important step forward in the Eurovignette debate. The European Parliament clearly supports a legislative proposal to allow for the internalisation of external costs.

Michael Robson, EIM's Secretary General said, "Eurovignette is an important instrument to achieve fair charging between the different types of transport. I look forward to seeing the expected EC proposals later this year. The road industry produces pollutants that it is never charged for. It is now time to act to ensure that we secure a level playing field in the transport market. EIM believes the polluter must pay".

During the En-Route to Rail Sustainability Conference 13th of February 2008 at Sofitel Brussels Europe, EIM along with the Partner Organisations European Federation of Trackworks Contractors (EFRTC), European Rail Freight Customer Platform (ERFCP) & International Union of Railways (UIC) will discuss long-term financial stability and the creation of a level playing field in the transport sector. The programme features many high-level speakers, including MEPs Michael Cramer & Anne E Jensen and Peter Verlic the Slovenian Secretary of State for Transport. The European Commissioner for Transport, Jacques Barrot will close the day speaking on "Greening the Transport Sector".

The revision of the Eurovignette Directive is an integral part of the debate on sustainable transport policies. EIM strongly supports the amendment on Eurovignette made by the European Parliament Transport Committee today and looks forward to further debating the issue during its conference.



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**Notes to the Editor:**

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