



Press Release 26.06.07

## **Rail Infrastructure Managers faces up to Environmental Challenges**

*Sufficient rail infrastructure is the key to sustainable transport development. There is no doubt about that from a broad environmental perspective, the rail sector outperforms other transport competitors. Today the European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) launched a major position statement, leading the way forward in tackling some of the major environmental challenges facing us.*

At the CER, EIM UIC, UITP, UNIFE Fighting Climate Change Conference today, Vice President, European Commission J. Barrot, Directorate Transport said that “we all have a choice of transport modes, be it for passengers or freight transport”. Only through intelligent pricing and cost structure can we ensure the increase in rail market share and the decrease in negative climate change.

EIM Secretary General, Michael Robson, at the same conference today, said “we have an opportunity now to use the momentum of the upcoming EC communications on freight oriented transport networks and on charging to ensure that future needed investment levels in rail infrastructure is met. Well functioning infrastructure is a key to ensuring sustainable development and facing up to our environmental challenges”.

EIM emphasises that a combined transport industry approach is a must for creating sustainable transport networks. For example port enlargements must be made in connection with rail links to ensure that the traffic increase is not continuing to clog up the road network.

In some European countries road tolls have been applied specifically to vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. The Eurovignette directive should be further build upon to ensure that the polluter pays principle applies. Finding a charging system where the external cost of transport includes emissions and safety must become an EC priority. Rail is the safest and most environmentally friendly transport mode. Yet, the customers do not pay a lower price in line with this.

EIM members are using every opportunity to tackle the environmental challenges and leading the way to a sustainable future as a partner within the railway community.

### **Notes to the Editor:**

For further information on EIM:

<http://www.eimrail.org> and <http://www.eimrail.org/people.html>

For EIM position papers on the Energy & Environment:

[http://www.eimrail.org/documents/EIMPositonPaper\\_EnergyandEnvironment\\_June2007.pdf](http://www.eimrail.org/documents/EIMPositonPaper_EnergyandEnvironment_June2007.pdf)

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