

Press Release, 1 October 2009

**“On track for a sustainable future”  
EIM presents its vision for the future of transport**

**“Rail transport will play a crucial role in a sustainable, effective and safe intermodal transport network in the coming decades.” These were the conclusions of a paper on the future of transport that Europe’s independent rail infrastructure managers (EIM) presented to the European Commission yesterday.**

The paper, entitled “On track for a sustainable future”, forms part of EIM’s response to a wide ranging consultation on the future of transport carried out by the European Commission over the past months. While emphasising the positive contribution rail can make to the twenty-first century transport network, the EIM paper pointed out a number of areas in which EU action is required to allow this to happen.

The use of new technologies will help to reduce transport’s environmental footprint. High speed rail, for example, is an environmentally friendly solution for long distance transport and could also be exploited for high value freight transport. The adoption of existing Intelligent Transport Systems technology by rail would help to improve the quality and competitiveness of rail freight.

The “polluter pays” principle must be put into place to ensure that there is a level playing field between the transport modes, while sending the correct price signals to companies and individuals to allow them to make the best possible mobility choice.

Financing will also be a key issue in the future, as public funds are diverted to deal with the needs of an ageing population and governments rein in spending. Available resources should be used to increase capacity by alleviating bottlenecks and investing in new infrastructure on a market oriented basis.

The concept of Green Corridors, which is currently being developed in Sweden, is an effective way to integrate transport modes, while ensuring that transport is as sustainable as possible. Green corridors reflect an integrated transport concept where all transport modes complement each other to enable the choice of the most sustainable mobility solution.

Michael Robson, Secretary General of EIM said, “European Infrastructure Managers are ready to play their part in developing the sustainable transport network of the future. However, for sustainable transport to become a reality, all stakeholders – both in the transport industry and government – must buy into the concept of green transport, in particular through the adoption of the polluter pays principle.”

An electronic copy of “On track for a sustainable future” can be found at [http://www.eimrail.org/pdf/otherpapers/Future%20of%20Transport%20EIM\\_final.pdf](http://www.eimrail.org/pdf/otherpapers/Future%20of%20Transport%20EIM_final.pdf)

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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](http://www.eimrail.org) or follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/EIM\\_rail](https://twitter.com/EIM_rail)