

Press Release 02.07.07

EIM well established as the voice of independent rail infrastructure managers

Over the next 15 years, it is expected that rail transport across Europe will grow by at least 40%. At the same time, it is generally believed that at least 21% of CO₂ emissions are the result of transport, as well as a number of other greenhouse gasses. Rail transport, with its enviable “green” benefits, has a major role in achieving the Kyoto objectives. As such, few would argue that every lorry off the road and put on to rail is a step in the right direction.

This is today's situation, not very different from five years ago when the European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) was established. The mission of EIM then and now: to ensure that the voice of the independent infrastructure managers is properly heard within the European Community, in this particular context as well as in a general transport policy context.

In his address at the fifth EIM annual Summer Cocktail Vice President, European Commission J. Barrot, Directorate Transport referred to “the longstanding Commission policy to support the further development of the rail sector in the EU, both in terms of infrastructure and the creation of an EU railway market.” Whilst acknowledging that much has already been achieved, he also confirmed that there is still a long way to go.

This opinion was shared by hosting MEP Chris Davies, who encouraged all guests to maintain their support to the further development of an efficient intermodal transport policy.

At the same time, Commissioner Barrot assured his uninterrupted commitment “towards further progress in the near future”. Many initiatives in preparation bear witness of his pledge:

- The mutual recognition of the rolling stock.
- A plan for a rail freight oriented network.
- New guidelines on State Aid in the rail sector.
- A report on multi annual contracts between infrastructure managers and public authorities.
- Rail noise abatement.

EIM Chairman, Bert Klerk, said “that the Commission's continued interest in the rail industry is an important factor in developing the sector. The infrastructure manager has the responsibility for not just ensuring the current effective operation of the railways, but also for the future investment and development of the rail industry.



It is also important to recognise that the railway industry is a very complex business where partnerships are an absolute necessity for ensuring future successful sector development.”

Following the speeches of Commissioner Barrot and Chairman Klerk, they both participated in cutting the cake celebrating the fifth anniversary.

Five years ago EIM members were of the opinion that **the journey to the future is a European railway system open to all**. Today, EIM is more than ever convinced and intends working to ensure that the modal shift from road to rail becomes a greater reality in the future.



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Notes to the Editor:

For further information on EIM and its various positions:

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

For presentations and photos of the event:

<http://www.eimrail.org/events.html> and http://www.eimrail.org/p_events.html

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