

Press Release, 5 February 2010

“The journey to the future is a European railway open to all” EIM launches Annual Report at European Railway Award 2010

Brussels: The association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) used the occasion of the European Railway Award 2010 to present its newly published 2009 Annual Report to an audience of leading figures from the rail industry and European politics, including European Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani.

The annual report outlines the achievements the association has made over the past year, while working to promote the interests of Europe’s rail infrastructure managers in the face of the economic crisis and the climate challenge. In addition, the report attempts to put a spotlight on employees of member companies – the people who are essential to the efficient running of the railway network. Making use of pictures and quotes, the report illustrates the daily work of infrastructure managers.

Michael Robson, EIM Secretary General, said, *“As this Annual Report shows, 2009 was a year of change for EIM, with the European elections bringing in an influx of new blood to the European Parliament and the establishment of a new European Commission while the adoption of the Lisbon treaty will change the way decisions are taken in Europe. At the same time, EIM itself has undergone a process of change, particularly in regards to our relations with the other rail sector organisations.”*



The annual report also outlines the main challenges that EIM will face in 2010. Building up a relationship with the new European Commission while pushing for action on measures such as the recast of the First Railway Package and the Future of Transport will be key tasks. In addition, there will be a shift in the focus of EIM with more effort being put into helping its members deliver better customer service through a wide range of activities including the creation of a network to share best practice becoming an important pillar of the association. *“If 2009 was a year of changes, 2010 will be the year in which we work to take advantage of these changes to improve our working methods, build new relationships with our partners in industry and politics and to push forward with the realisation of our vision of an open, sustainable, customer focussed and efficient rail network for Europe,”* Michael Robson said.

An electronic copy of the EIM 2009 Annual Report is available from the EIM website at: http://www.eimrail.org/pdf/bro/EIM_AR09_web_FIN.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 or follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/EIM_rail