



The Voice
of European
Railways

European Rail
Infrastructure Managers



Press Release
Brussels, 11 February 2010

Europe's railways call for action on the future of transport in joint letter welcoming new EU Transport Commissioner

The European rail sector has welcomed the appointment of Siim Kallas as EU Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Transport. In a joint letter sent today, the Community of European Railways and Infrastructure Companies (CER), the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM), and the European Rail Industry (UNIFE) congratulated Mr. Kallas, while calling on him to take action to enhance the competitiveness of rail – the most environmentally friendly mode of transport.

The railway organisations welcomed Mr. Kallas statement to the European Parliament that he would seek to improve the environmental performance of transport through a combination of measures including the development or better use of infrastructure, the introduction of new technology, better use of existing sustainable technologies, and by creating a level playing field through the internalisation of external costs of all modes of transport.

The letter also calls on the new Commissioner to take action to overcome a number of shortcomings in the implementation of European railway legislation, and in particular the First Railway Package. "The European rail sector feels that a recast of the First Railway Package would be the best way to resolve these shortcomings, while enhancing the competitiveness of Europe's railways," the three associations wrote.

The associations close the letter by setting out their vision of the " ... transport of the future as a multimodal system with, at its core, an electrified rail network covering all of Europe which is able to respond to the needs of both passenger and freight customers."

The letter was sent to Vice-President Kallas on 10 February, and was signed by Johannes Ludewig, Executive Director of CER, Michael Robson, Secretary General of EIM, and Michael Clausecker, Director General of UNIFE.

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Download a copy of the letter from CER, EIM and UNIFE here: <http://twurl.nl/na13mc>



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The association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) promotes the interests and views of independent railway Infrastructure Managers in Europe. It acts as a lobbying organisation towards the European Union institutions, and together with industry partners, provides technical expertise to European bodies, such as the European Railway Agency. The association was set up in 2002, following the liberalisation of the European railway market.

EIM's primary goal is promoting the growth of rail traffic and the development of an open, sustainable, efficient, customer focussed rail network in Europe. To learn more visit www.eimrail.org or follow us on twitter at twitter.com/EIM_rail.

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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 European railway undertakings and infrastructure companies. CER represents the interests of its members towards the European institutions as well as other policy makers and transport actors. CER's main focus is promoting the strengthening of rail as essential to the creation of a sustainable transport system which is efficient, effective and environmentally sound. For more information, see www.cer.be

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UNIFE represents the interests of the European Rail Industry towards the European institutions, international railway associations and other business relations. The European Rail Industry provides competitive railway systems for increased rail traffic and follows the objective of making rail transport the sustainable solution for the challenges of the 21st century mobility. The European Rail Industry consists of trend setting industries in the field of rolling stock, infrastructure, information technology and signalling, provision of part and services. For more information, see www.unife.org