

## PRESS RELEASE

7<sup>th</sup> December 2017**EIM and its Members Bane NOR, ProRail and SNCF Réseau participated at the Rail Freight Day, which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the Wiener Borsenhalle in Vienna (Austria).**

For the fourth year in a row, the rail freight community gathered in Vienna for the annual Rail Freight Day. Organised by the European Commission (DG MOVE) and RailNetEurope (RNE), the Event brought together more than one hundred delegates among stakeholders and actors from the rail sector to discuss the most compelling issues for rail freight in Europe.

EIM – the Association representing rail infrastructure managers in Europe – welcomes the outcome of the Event which triggered fruitful discussions and forward-looking debates. EIM and its Members strongly reiterate their strong commitment to effectively implement the Sector Statement<sup>1</sup> with the related ten priority projects, and continue their engagement to make rail freight more attractive, customer-friendly, fully exploiting the potential of Rail Freight Corridors.

Transport Commissioner Ms. Violeta Bulc opened the session stressing how rail can contribute to a more prosperous society, helping the EU to achieve its ambitious decarbonisation objectives. With 75% of the overall transport's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions coming from the road sector, there is a clear business opportunity for rail. The Rastatt incident, she added, must be seen as a chance to learn from shortcomings in terms of lack of efficient cooperation as well as lack of confidence of the users/customers. Finally, Ms. Bulc made a strong call on the sector to join forces to deliver on EU competitiveness: – *“We need to prove that rail is effectively delivering on EU value. Building solid arguments on the increasing of performance of rail will be fundamental in view of the negotiations for the forthcoming Multi-Annual Financial Framework. Other modes are not sleeping”* –.

ProRail – the Netherlands' rail infrastructure manager – represented by Mr. Pier Eringa, joined the first Panel on the state of play of the Rotterdam Ministerial Declaration and the Sector Statement, chaired by Mr. Matthew Baldwin, DG MOVE's Deputy Director-General.

Pier Eringa, ProRail's President-Directeur and EIM's President, said: – *“It is now time to act and deliver on the Declaration and Statement made in Rotterdam. We as infrastructure managers must cooperate with all our partners and carrying out a true European harmonisation. Technology innovations, from ERTMS to ATO – by reducing delays, improving safety and optimising energy consumption – can significantly improve the attractiveness of rail freight, helping to convince decision-makers that by investing in rail they invest in a competitive and sustainable Europe. I think we all have a responsibility to demonstrate the advantages of Rail Freight and as incoming president of EIM I am very much committed to propagate that.”* –.

SNCF Réseau, represented by Mr. Paul Mazataud, participated in the fourth panel dealing with the broad topic of rail freight capacity, including the International Timetabling Revision (TTR) project.

Paul Mazataud, SNCF Réseau's Europe Director, said: – *“The TTR Project will bring a radical and positive change for the rail freight traffic. And this step forward, triggered by TTR, will not be beneficial just for International rail freight, but also for national traffic and even for passengers. Most importantly, we need to trust each other so that we – IMs and RUs – all play the game to achieve high quality products, the optimal use of our whole capacity and the best possible management of the infrastructure.”* –.

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<sup>1</sup> Sector Statement on Rail Freight Corridors – “Boosting International Rail Freight”  
<http://www.eimrail.org/uploads/news/Corridor-Sector-Statement-20160520.pdf>

Bane NOR – Norway’s rail infrastructure manager – represented by Mr. Bjorn Kristiansen, was invited to join the fifth panel focusing on the tracing & tracking of freight trains and the estimated time of arrival (ETA), which is one of the Sector Statement’s key priority projects.

Bjorn Kristiansen, Bane NOR’s Executive Vice President for Traffic Operations and Customer Relations, said: – *“The availability of data is key for the Rail business to be competitive vis-à-vis road traffic. In a world where you can trace airlines or ships through an app, the market would expect no less from rail. Several EIM Members, including Bane NOR, already offer real time data for free to developers who wish to create innovative tools. In this regard, openness and availability of data will be a major factor in determining whether the ETA Project will be success”*–.

Monika Heiming, EIM Executive Director, commented: – *“European cooperation is fundamental to foster a more competitive rail business. Events like the Rail Freight Day, bringing together hundreds of stakeholders from all sides of the business, represent the core of what these synergies are all about: to learn from best practices and exploit common opportunities. Here we can assess collectively what we have achieved in terms of removal of technical and administrative barriers, efficient planning of capacity or the uptake of the digital dimension, to develop a real European network of rail freight together”* –.

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EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following the liberalisation of the EU railway market. It also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies such as the European Railway Agency. EIM’s primary goal is promoting growth of rail traffic and the development of an open sustainable, efficient, customer orientated rail network in Europe.