

Press Release – Ambition of European Commission on TEN-T must be maintained by EU Council

01 December 2022

On 01 December, ERFA, along with other European railway associations, issued a joint statement on the need for the EU Council to adopt an agreement on a joint approach regarding the TEN-T Regulation which is in line with the ambitions laid out by the European Commission’s proposal. For rail freight to be able to achieve the targets agreed upon in the European Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, it is important that infrastructure is developed in a timely manner and which will facilitate increased rail freight volumes.

Under the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, rail freight needs to increase its volumes by 50% by 2030 and double volumes by 2050. This will require a clear plan at international level on infrastructure development. Given that over 50% of rail freight crosses at least one border, it is essential that this international approach is clearly defined in European legislation, namely the TEN-T Regulation.

For ERFA, this means clear deadlines for infrastructure development along key freight corridors. For rail freight to be able to grow as outlined, this means infrastructure that allows 740-metre trains, 22.5 tonnes axle load and is P400 compatible. Longer and heavier trains are an essential prerequisite to increasing rail freight volumes. On top of this, a strong commitment to ERTMS and terminal development is required.

ERFA President, Dirk Stahl, stated, *“Member States have to commit to developing a truly European railway network. We believe the European Commission proposal has presented a good means by which to achieve this and it is now important that Member States give a clear signal for rail freight and support this vision. To weaken the necessary infrastructure parameters would be fatal.”*

ERFA Secretary General, Conor Feighan, concluded, *“the 05 December EU Council Meeting of Transport Ministers will be an important moment for rail freight. The Council text must include clear deliverables for Member States which is in line with other legislative commitments, such as those outlined in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.”*

Please find joint statement [here](#).