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## PRESS RELEASE

### **EU Member States in the driving seat for the creation of a European railway market boosting jobs and growth**

In the run-up to the start of the Italian Presidency, the future of rail in Europe is in the hands of the EU Member States.

EU Member States are in the driving seat for the creation of a European railway market which is attractive for all and thereby spurs on investment, creates employment and generates growth and innovation.

This can be achieved by tackling all 'open points' of the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package, the remaining technical but also the political pillar.

In times of economic uncertainties, it is more important than ever to create stable framework conditions, which are open, democratic and transparent for all players, be they public or private.

The rail sector must be more attractive to investors and industry in order to stimulate innovative services. The rail sector has seen a positive turn since the adoption of the 1<sup>st</sup> Railway Package and this momentum needs to be supported even further.

Customers are rightly expecting to get the best services possible from all rail operators and the members of ERFA are keen to develop them, thereby contributing to make the railway market more attractive for all.

We look forward to working with the Italian Presidency to promote an agenda for growth, employment and innovation in the interest of all, not least for the Member States and their tax payers.

ERFA (European Rail Freight Association) was set up with the 1<sup>st</sup> Railway Package in Brussels in July 2002 to represent the interests of the new independent and private 'open access' rail freight operators. ERFA is EU Representative Body. Today, the association comprises 31 members (22 rail freight operators, wagon keepers, service providers, forwarders as well as 9 national rail freight associations) active in 18 countries in wider Europe. ERFA represents more than 70 Railways Undertakings and 55.000 wagons. ERFA's main objective is to make the rail freight market fit for competition so that rail freight can expand its market share, attract new investments, become more innovative and create jobs. By doing so, ERFA contributes to a highly competitive EU rail freight market.



ERFA's key mission to achieve its objective is to remove all legal, technical, social and administrative barriers that prevent its members from rapidly establishing international cross-border freight services, using all rail infrastructures regardless of who manages them, and to encourage any developments likely to enable all rail companies to flourish on this market, regardless of their size or age.

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