

## Press Release – ERFA Welcomes Fit For 55 Package but Calls on Policy Makers not to Lose Sight of Modal Shift Objectives

16 July 2021

**ERFA welcomes the Fit For 55 Package which was unveiled by the European Commission on 14 July 2021, particularly regarding the recognition that there is a need to address emissions from other transport modes, but calls on policy makers not to lose sight of the modal shift objectives set out in the European Commission’s Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.**

For transport emissions to be brought down to a sustainable level, it is essential that concrete steps are taken by all modes to reduce their emissions. Under the current scenario, transport emissions in 2030 will remain above 1990 levels, even with measures currently planned in Member States.

Although the ETS systems included within the Fit For 55 Package will assist other modes of transport in transitioning to renewable fuels, it must be recognized that this is only part of the solution. Apart from rail, the primary source of GHG emissions for all other means of [freight transportation is still prominently linked to direct fuel consumption](#). This transition will take time and it is therefore crucial that other measures are in place to assist in ensuring freight transport contributes to the target of a 55% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

This is why the European Commission’s Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy introduced modal shift objectives for rail, namely increasing rail freight volumes by 50% by 2030 and doubling by 2050. Modal shift must remain a cornerstone of policy maker’s strategy to bring transport emissions down to a sustainable level.

**ERFA President, Dirk Stahl**, commented, *“We welcome the recently published “Fit for 55 Package” which will look to introduce climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It is no surprise that rail does not feature predominately in the package, given rail’s existing green credentials, but we must not lose sight that rail remains a key part of the solution”.*

**ERFA Secretary General, Conor Feighan** said *“We now have a clear understanding of the European Commission’s legislation objectives for the coming years as communicated in this month’s “Fit For 55” package and last December’s “Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy”. It is now important that these strategies are followed up with ambitious legislative proposals which will assist in meeting the objectives they have already set out”.*

For more information, you can Contact:

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