

Press Release – Joint Declaration on Accelerating Modal Shift Signals Urgency for Policy Makers

29 March 2023

On 29 March, leading European rail freight associations, rail freight CEOs and the chair of the European Parliament’s Transport and Tourism Committee, Ms. Karima Delli, endorsed a joint declaration on the need to accelerate modal shift in the transportation of freight. The joint declaration predates a 2020 joint declaration which identified the need to act to deliver modal shift. Leading voices in rail freight are now calling for ambition from European policy makers over the coming months.

Three years on from the original declaration, it must be noted that the modal share of rail freight has not increased, as can be observed in the latest [Court of Auditors report on Intermodal Freight Transport](#). This lack of growth calls into question the feasibility on the European Union’s modal shift objectives of 50% growth of rail freight by 2030 and doubling by 2050 as set out in the European Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. It is therefore clear that a new approach is needed.

On 21 June, the European Parliament and Council will be presented with the “Greening Freight Package”. This, amongst other policy measures, will play an important role in addressing several issues hampering the growth of rail freight such as a disjointed approach to international capacity management and remaining national barriers to international rail freight services.

It will also be essential that the rail freight sector is assisted in the development and deployment of digital and automatic solutions such as ERTMS which will lead to significant capacity savings.

ERFA President, Dirk Stahl, stated, *“I am pleased that along with my colleagues in the rail freight sector, and Ms. Karima Delli, we can share a common vision on what we need to do to deliver for rail freight. This joint declaration importantly covers all rail freight undertakings, be they national incumbents or challengers, under one common mission to move more freight to rail.”*

ERFA Secretary General, Conor Feighan, concluded, *“the joint declaration comes at an important moment. We have just over one year left of the mandate of the current European Commission and European Parliament. It is essential that there is a strong push now to ensure this legislative mandate is one that had a positive impact on rail freight.”*

For more information, you can Contact:

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Rue Montoyer 23, B-1000 Brussels ; Reg nr. 0478.440.721. Belgian official gazette 26.11.2007



The full declaration can be found [here](#).

The press joint communication can be found [here](#).

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