

## PRESS RELEASE

27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Brussels

### ERFA Annual Event:

#### Let's give modal shift a chance!



ERFA's Annual event, held on April 18<sup>th</sup> focussed on the actions needed to **improve the competitive offer of rail through reducing track access charges** paid by rail freight operators, improving the **reliability of train services** and making the case for **strong and co-ordinated Infrastructure Manager (IM) contingency plans**. Access charges make up 20 to 35 % of the costs of rail freight operators. They are paid for services that directly influence the quality of transport, services whose performance can be improved.

Dirk Stahl, CEO of BLS Cargo and Michail Stahlhut, CEO of SBB Cargo International, presented about the consequences of Rastatt on the economy and customer confidence.

During 51 days of Rastatt's disruption two-thirds of the freight trains were cancelled on a line which usually hosts 65% intermodal and 35% conventional wagonload trains. **The losses to the economy and all parts of the supply chain from the interruption exceed 2 billion euros.**

Two interesting and inspiring tools based on the EU regulations, which have improved the quality of the rail freight offering were presented during a lunch seminar gathering about 100 experts.

- The **scheme to compensate Railway Undertakings** for the impact to their services during planned disruption adopted in UK creates financial incentives on the Infrastructure Manager to minimise the impact of disruption to customers stemming from engineering works.
- The **Italian measure** providing the rail sector with **financial mechanisms** that will reduce track access charges and greatly contribute to reduce imbalance between rail and road.

ERFA will spread these best practices and stimulate the Members States having a **real political to support modal shift** and encourage them to use the existing EU tools as well as taking UK and Italy as model.

Our members strive to offer competitive, reliable and consistent services to their customers. Support from Member States to roll out mechanisms to **support transparent and lower track access charges, and customer focussed incentives** on Infrastructure Managers will underpin these aims.

**Give modal shift a chance!**

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ERFA - European Rail Freight Association shares a commitment to work towards a competitive and innovative single European railway market by promoting attractive, fair and transparent market conditions for all the independent companies of the rail freight chain. In 2018, ERFA represents 31 members from 16 countries.