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## **ERFA and NEE intend to work more closely together**

**The associations European Rail Freight Association (Brussels) and Netzwerk Europäischer Eisenbahnen e.V. (Berlin) explore the possibilities of a closer cooperation. The goal of both organizations is to support the market opening in rail transport even stronger together.**

Fair competition on the tracks and complete liberalization of the rail market - the objectives of the organizations European Rail Freight Association (ERFA) and Network of European Railways (NEE) are practically identical. Under these circumstances it is natural to reflect upon possible synergies and combining forces.

The Brussels ERFA, which represents about 30 companies and national associations in the freight sector such as private railways, freight car holders and transport companies, is looking on the German transport policy with interest. The Secretary General Pierre Tonon: ***"European rail policy is increasingly made in Germany, as it has once again been proved in the recently published 4th Railway package. It is therefore all the more important to strengthen the position of the private rail sector in Germany. In addition, the new markets in Eastern Europe are strategically important for ERFA. Here the intention is to reinforce the presence in future"***.

The Netzwerk Europäischer Eisenbahnen e.V. (NEE) with approximately 25 members is committed to fair and non-discriminatory competition on the rails. Members are mostly privately owned railway companies. They provide roughly 65% of the market share of all non-federally owned rail freight companies operating on German rails. The NEE is a member of ERFA since many years. CEO Alexander Kirfel: ***"For the non-federal government-owned railways in Germany it's evident: Brussels is where the action is, especially on the legislative side. Hence, we need to take a stronger influence in Brussels. An opportunity could be an increased cooperation with ERFA, which is well-established in Brussels and has an excellent reputation at the European Union level"***.



ERFA and NEE will explore common strategies and action fields in the context of exploratory talks and workshops. Organisational synergies are also being considered. By the third or fourth quarter 2013, this process will be completed.

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