

Brussels, 19 June 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Congratulations to the EU institutions and the Danish Presidency for finding an agreement on time for the Recast of the First Railway Package

Since 2010, ERFA strongly requested that the First Railway Package be revised and improved. With the agreement reached today by the EU member states, ERFA congratulates the EU institutions and the Danish Presidency for having found an agreement. ERFA recognizes that important progress has been reached but sees also room for further improvement so as to tackle once for all the manifold problems of the new rail freight operators in the market.

The members of ERFA, which are the pioneers of cross-border rail freight traffic in Europe, welcome in particular:

- A better and more efficient opening-up of **Rail Related Services** (freight terminals, train formation facilities including shunting facilities, refueling facilities, ...) which are essential for making rail freight traffic profitable. The members of ERFA underline that an independent management of rail-related services is key for non-discriminatory access to them.
- A better consultation process by the Infrastructure Manager: as users and customers the members of ERFA will be consulted for the **five years strategy plan** to comment on maintenance, renewals and investments to improve the network capacity.
- A better regulation of the market by a reinforced collaboration amongst the regulatory bodies, the regular consultation of the users, the improved delays of intervention, etc. ERFA always defended **an independent, efficient, fast and well-staffed Regulatory Body**.

Pierre Tonon, General Secretary reminds ERFA's main objective to achieve competitive, seamless and efficient cross border traffic in the EU. **"ERFA thanks the Parliament's Rapporteur Debora Serracchiani to have reached an agreement on such a difficult and highly complex matter such as the Recast of the 1st Railway Package."**

Contacts:

ERFA (European Rail Freight Association) was set up 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 30 members (21 rail freight operators, wagon keepers, service providers, forwarders as well as 9 national rail freight associations) from 16 countries in wider Europe. ERFA represents more than 800 locomotives and 55.000 freight 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.

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