

Press Release – Joint Vision on International Capacity Management

21 October 2022

For rail freight to be able to meet the objectives set out in the European Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, it is essential that railway capacity management moves towards a system that is European, digital, flexible and secure. Rail freight undertakings must be able to book capacity which is in line with their business models and allows for flexibility to meet customer needs. Along with FTE (Forum Train Europe) and ALLRAIL, ERFA has agreed a common vision on how this can be achieved.

The goal of rail infrastructure capacity management is to provide the necessary quantity and quality capacity for all traffic needs at the time when it is required by the customers. The current capacity models are not meeting these needs and, in many cases, remain strongly national in focus. This is a concern for rail freight given that more than 50% of rail freight crosses at least one border.

ERFA believes that a common, European-wide process for capacity management, supported by the necessary legal framework at European Union level, is required. ERFA recognizes progress being made by some Infrastructure Managers on meeting rail freight needs, but it is critical that there is a common approach enshrined in legislation. Although well intended, national initiatives may deviate from common processes at the expense of cross border rail.

ERFA President, Dirk Stahl, stated, *“how capacity is managed is one of the biggest issues facing rail freight undertakings over the coming years. Rail freight needs a system which is European, digital, flexible and secure in order to meet our customer’s needs. In this regard, we strongly support the joint vision agreed with FTE and ALLRAIL. We believe it sets a clear roadmap on how all actors, both governmental and industry, can move towards a better system for capacity management.”*

ERFA Secretary General, Conor Feighan, concluded, *“it is clear that legislation will be required to deliver a European-wide process for capacity management. This will require the creation of a real single European rail capacity market, without national specific standards. The objective is that capacity management should be managed in the same way throughout Europe. ERFA supports the European Institutions in their work on this important issue.”*

Please see position on market-oriented capacity management [here](#)

Please see position on process harmonization [here](#)

Please see position on efficient IT support [here](#)

For more information, you can Contact:

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