

PRESS RELEASE



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ERFA welcomes the European Parliament's proposal to offer a free InterRail pass to young Europeans as an opportunity for the Single European Railway area.

ERFA, representing new entrants from the freight and passenger sector, believes that free InterRail pass for young Europeans is an essential project to encourage youth's mobility, contributing to create a common European identity.

As the European Commission is ready to explore the idea, ERFA would like to highlight that InterRail ticket for young European can be a good opportunity to achieve and promote an open and innovative Single European Railway Area.

In an open rail market, all passenger rail operators, including new entrants, need to be fully integrated in the InterRail project in order to reflect the diversity of railways and passenger experiences at both cross-border and domestic levels.

Where new entrants have entered the passenger rail market, they have generated new traffic for rail services and pushed forward innovation.

Therefore, InterRail needs to welcome them on-board in order to give the chance for young passengers to seize all opportunities offered by an open European rail market. It will also demonstrate how a competitive rail sector can deliver good passenger experiences.

ERFA urges the European Commission and Eurail to allow all operators to join the scheme on a fair and equitable basis without delay and not to shut out new entrants from the free InterRail pass project, as they represent a growing part of the rail market and bring benefits for the whole rail sector.

ERFA is convinced that the free InterRail pass for Young people can be a unique opportunity to promote an open, quality-focused and sustainable rail sector.

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ERFA - European Rail Freight Association - represents new entrants, i.e. all those operators who want open access and fair market conditions, and sustains their role of pushing forward the development of the railway market. The Association is very much a spin-off of the First Railway Package, adopted by the EU in 2001, and its vision of creating an open and competitive European rail market.

In 2015, ERFA represents 36 members from 16 countries. The members of ERFA all share a commitment to work towards a competitive and innovative single European railway market by promoting attractive, fair and transparent market conditions for all railway companies.

The members of ERFA represent the entire value chain of rail transportation: rail freight operators, wagon keepers, service providers, forwarders, passenger operators and national rail freight associations.