

Brussels, 6 September 2012

**ERFA express its opinion on
social conditions and dialogue for the Railway workers**

*in the frame of the European Economic and Social Committee (ESCC) conference:
Reforming European railway legislation*

New entrants are an intrinsic part of the EU railway system. They must comply with the same rules and standards as the incumbent operators.

ERFA members take safety and security very seriously. They have to – in the frame of their safety management system - as they cannot afford to get it wrong. Incidents cost money and are bad for the reputation.

As a principle, safety and security levels have not decreased since the market opening; rules are becoming more transparent and harmonized, which is highly welcomed.

Liberalization/separation will not mean that wages will decrease. Example in the UK: Drivers wages have increased dramatically, due to competition between train operators.

There needs to be a flexible and dynamic labor market with the same labor laws as in the normal job market in different member states, so that new companies can attract and keep experienced personnel, and ensure that they are properly trained.

Independent training facilities have to be open to all operators.

Companies must be able to negotiate their own agreements with their labor, including the ability to work away from base for more than one night.

So ERFA would like to be part of the Social Dialogue too: ERFA members are key in the liberalization process and have an important contribution to make in social discussions.