

6.6 2014

## PRESS RELEASE

### New Chair at European Rail Freight Association

At today's Board Meeting of the European Rail Freight Association, Irmtraut Tonndorf of Hupac was elected President, and Frank Schuhholz of ERS Railways Vice President.

The Board thanked outgoing President, Francois Coart of Europorte for his hard work and leadership.

The ERFA Board confirmed its commitment to creating a fully competitive and liberalised rail system in order to achieve much-needed rail growth across Europe and to encourage modal shift from road to rail. ERFA fully intends to continue actively contributing and supporting the goals of the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package.

ERFA will be seeking to expand its membership to other stakeholders such as those coming from the passenger sector in order to gain maximum support for a good outcome on the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package.

ERFA (European Rail Freight Association) was set up with the 1<sup>st</sup> Railway Package 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 31 members (22 rail freight operators, wagon keepers, service providers, forwarders as well as 9 national rail freight associations) active in 18 countries in wider Europe. ERFA represents more than 70 Railways Undertakings and 55.000 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.

ERFA's key mission to achieve its objective is to remove all legal, technical, social and administrative barriers that prevent its members from rapidly establishing international cross-border freight services, using all rail infrastructures regardless of who manages them, and to encourage any developments likely to enable all rail companies to flourish on this market, regardless of their size or age.

Hupac - Since its foundation in 1967, Hupac has become the leading intermodal transport operator through the Swiss Alps and one of the market leaders in Europe. The group comprises 10 companies based in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium. The company is owned by around 100 shareholders

ERS Railways European Rail Shuttle B.V. (ERS) was established in 1994 with the aim to transport containers throughout Europe. Today, ERS operates an extensive rail shuttle network in Continental Europe with more than 250 train departures per week, interlinking Rotterdam and the German seaports with around 20 destinations.

#### Contact:

**ERFA asbl**  
Pierre Tonon  
Secretary General  
**+32 475235348**  
[pierre.tonon@erfarail.eu](mailto:pierre.tonon@erfarail.eu)

Julia Lamb  
Deputy Secretary General  
+32 485259988  
[Julia.lamb@erfarail.eu](mailto:Julia.lamb@erfarail.eu)

