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## PRESS RELEASE

### **ERFA welcomes pragmatic solution on Channel Tunnel access charges**

ERFA welcomed the steps taken to get more freight trains going through the Channel Tunnel and the potential this holds for opening up new freight markets between mainland Europe and the UK.

The result of the announcement from Eurotunnel means that access charges for freight trains entering the tunnel will be significantly lowered, removing an important deterrent for freight operators wanting to run rail freight services through the tunnel.

This positive development comes on the back of a European Commission investigation into high access charges in the Channel Tunnel. ERFA supports the many investigations that the Commission has done in the last few years to ensure compliance with railway legislation.

It comes at a time when rail freight's share of the market in Europe continues to decline or at best stagnate, despite the need to decongest roads and promote more sustainable modes of transport.

“Enough talking and more actions like the decision taken today are needed if we are to enable rail freight volumes to meet their potential,” said ERFA Vice-President Frank Schuhholz.

ERFA fully supports the EU's vision for a sustainable transport policy, shifting more freight off the roads and is grateful to the efforts of Eurotunnel and the European Commission in what is a good result today for European rail freight

#### **Contacts:**

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.



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