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PRESS RELEASE

Efficient cooperation by and between independent Infrastructure Managers facilitates the full opening process of the European railway market

ERFA welcomes, congratulates and expresses thanks for the creation of a new platform of European Infrastructure Managers signed between the Commission DG MOVE and 6 Infrastructure Managers from the EIM Association, during the TEN-T days 2013 *Connecting Europe* last week in Tallinn (Estonia). It is a major event and a very fine start for “institutionalized” cross-border cooperation. ERFA considers this first step as a precursor to the European Network of Infrastructure Managers (ENIM) proposed by the Commission in its 4th Railway Package, in the recast of Directive 2012/34/EU establishing a single European railway area to open the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure.

ERFA remains confident about a future realistic and voluntary vote for the 4th Railway Package and reiterates: ***“ERFA demands the independence of infrastructure managers as a precondition for an open, healthy railway market. Full separation between infrastructure and operations is the simplest, most efficient and less costly way of achieving liberalization. As an alternative, strong Chinese walls and strong and quick acting regulation must be established in order to guarantee independence of infrastructure managers within integrated holding companies.”*** Even if a large majority in favor of the Chinese walls emerges in the discussions, the advantages of a full separation are worth mentioning once more.

ERFA is keen to support the new platform and is waiting to be associated in dedicated working groups that reinforce useful cooperation with Railways Undertakings as in the case of the Railways Undertakings Advisory Groups (RAGs) of the Rail Freight corridors part of the Core Network.

Contacts:

ERFA (European Rail Freight Association) represent the interests of the new independent and private ‘open access’ rail freight operators. ERFA is EU Representative Body. Today, the association comprises 30 members (21 rail freight operators, wagon keepers, service providers, forwarders as well as 9 national rail freight associations) from 16 countries in wider Europe. ERFA represents more than 800 locomotives and 55.000 freight wagons.

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Pierre Tonon, Secretary General - [+32 475235348](tel:+32475235348) - p.t@erfarail.eu
François Coart, President - francois.coart@erfarail.eu