

## PRESS RELEASE



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Brussels

### **“Mark ups”, yes, but guaranteeing a healthy competition with road !**

#### **ERFA is attentive to the future mark ups to be introduced in Netherlands**

New marks ups could be introduced in the Netherlands from 2020.

The Dutch government has introduced new rules that enable the infrastructure manager ProRail to apply new mark ups in the calculation of track access charges. For rail freight operators, new mark-ups could be introduced based on train path efficiency, among others. Although officials argue that this could lead to lower access charges for some, others suggest the contrary.

During this consultation phase between ProRail and the Dutch Regulatory Body, it's very important that the ERFA's voice, representing the interests of all the new entrants on the single European rail area, be heard.

#### **ERFA asks strongly that the ProRail future mark ups reflect the ability of rail to compete with road rather than looking inwardly at the railway system.**

The track access charges account for between 20 and 35 % of total operational costs of the railway undertakings. An increase in these costs could weigh heavily on the rail freight competitiveness.

**Improving competitiveness of rail via lower track access charges must be the first objective of European infrastructure managers considering the efforts of the railway undertakings to improve quality.**

#### **Contacts:**

**Carole Coune**, Acting Secretary General, +32 478303005, [carole.coune@erfarail.eu](mailto:carole.coune@erfarail.eu)

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 2018, ERFA represents 30 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.