

Dublin Declaration of the European Rail Supply Industry

We, Members of the Presiding Board of the European Rail Industry Association, want to use the opportunity of our General Assembly in Dublin to raise the awareness of EU and national decision-makers on the crucial importance of our industry for the sustainable development of our continent and whole planet.

It is a fact: rail is the greenest and safest mode of mass transportation. With its high energy efficiency, its low emissions of CO₂ and its capacity to safely move millions of people and tonnes of goods all over the world, rail is definitely the solution to meet the challenges facing our planet: from globalisation to urbanisation and, of course, climate change.

And we are not only good for climate, we are also key for securing jobs and growth in Europe! We are a world-leading industry which provides more than 400 000 direct and indirect jobs throughout Europe; with supply chains made of thousands of innovative companies – from SMEs to major industrial players – all striving to deliver European industrial excellence all over the world.

As a forward-looking industry, we have been intensifying our efforts to fully embrace the challenge of digitalisation; and for the benefits of our customers and the sake of public finances, we are innovating to always improve the quality of our products and decrease the overall life-cycle cost of the railway transport system.

Nevertheless, we know that we are now in a turbulent era where, on the one hand, we face a very fierce industrial competition from Asia, and where, on the other hand, we increasingly face difficulties to access international markets due to rising protectionist trends.

Our industry is committed to demonstrate its resilience and its ability to stay at the forefront of global competition. To achieve this, we need the support of the EU and Member States and we call on them today to take action to secure a worldwide level-playing field and reaffirm the European leadership in the world rail market.

More specifically, we now urge the EU and Member States to act in three main areas:

- *Level playing field and business environment* – where we call for the swift implementation of the Technical Pillar of the Fourth Railway Package, for the promotion of the Best Price-Quality Ratio in Public Procurement and for securing international market access as well as fair global competition based on the principle of reciprocity;
- *Innovation and investment* – where we call for the extension of the Shift2Rail Programme for Research & Innovation in the framework of Horizon Europe and for making rail the backbone of the Trans-European Transport Network with ambitious EU funds – in particular the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and the Structural Funds – for rail infrastructure and ERTMS deployment;
- *People* – where we call for a dedicated EU initiative to improve skills intelligence and address skills shortages in our industry.

Signed in Dublin, Ireland, on the 13th of June 2019
by the Members of the Presiding Board of UNIFE – the European Rail Supply Industry Association.



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