



News Release

Rail Forum Europe Cocktail Reception

Brussels, 20th January 2020 – **The die is cast. A new year, a fresh European Commission and a recently-elected European Parliament. Time for Rail Forum Europe and its renewed leadership to restart their activities too. The Cocktail Reception, hosted by CER and UNIFE and which took place at the European Parliament, was the opportunity to present the new RFE President Andrey Novakov and new Vice-President Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg to the entire European rail community. The Reception was also the moment to share some of the priorities and ideas which will constitute the cornerstones of Rail Forum Europe’s initiatives over the upcoming months.**

Andrey Novakov, President of Rail Forum Europe, thanked the whole EU rail community for their presence and support showed to Rail Forum Europe – *“An Association”* he pointed out *“which for almost one decade has accompanied the most important developments of the rail and transport sector”* –.

Mr. Novakov expressed his commitment and determination to make sure that RFE keeps on leaving its mark over the forthcoming transport & industry-related matters. –*“There is a true call for action*

for rail with initiatives such as the EU Green Deal, the MFF negotiations and the announced Industrial Strategy” –.

In outlining the future priorities for Rail Forum Europe, Mr. Novakov stressed that – *“On the EU Green deal, we shall truly identify what the rail sector wishes to achieve through the different policy actions carried out within the initiative. A serious discussion about the real costs of the transition should not be overlooked”* –.

In concluding his speeches, the new President of Rail Forum Europe called for the collaboration and participation of the MEPs and whole sector – *“We will continue to defend the interests of*

the sectors and advance sustainable mobility. Let’s write this new Chapter together!” –.



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Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg, Vice-President of Rail Forum Europe, expressed her enthusiasm, humbleness and determination in taking over the role of Vice-President of the Association – *“The path ahead of us is full of challenges and opportunities”* – she remarked – *“The climate crisis requires urgent action. People all over the*

world and science are calling for a steep change in the way we live, produce and consume” –.

Ms. Deparnay-Grunenberg highlighted the significance of rail in the context of the climate-neutrality debates *“No Climate neutrality-objectives can be achieved by 2050 without a decisive decarbonisation of mobility. Rail as the cleanest mode of transport can therefore be key to the fulfilment of the Green Deal’s goals”* –. She concluded on a strong pitch for rail transport to be more ambitious – *“It will be our common purpose to demonstrate that rail is fit for the global challenges related to innovation, digital transformation and multimodality. Even more: Rail must be part of the cultural transformation”* –.



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About Rail Forum Europe

Founded by Members of the European Parliament from across the parliamentary committees, Rail Forum Europe is an international non-profit making association that aims at bringing together EU decision-makers and the rail sector to achieve a better understanding of rail-related issues.

Rail Forum Europe is governed solely by a Managing Board of MEPs, the President of which is Mr Michael Cramer (Member of the European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism).

For more information on Rail Forum Europe, please contact Tommaso.Spanevello@rail-forum.eu or visit www.rail-forum.eu.

Rail Forum Europe. The MEPs’ platform dedicated to rail transport