



The Voice
of European
Railways



Press Release

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CER and UNIFE call for agreement on Technical Pillar under Italian Presidency

On 1 July, the Italian Presidency will start its work taking over from Greece. CER Executive Director Libor Lochman and UNIFE Director General Philippe Citroën are looking forward to working with the Presidency and wish them a successful period.

The Italian Presidency will last from 1 July to 31 December. With no meetings taking place in August, the Transport Council and its Working Parties will have to deal with many transport-related dossiers in just five months. Both associations therefore call upon the Presidency to keep a close eye on the time at its disposal: significant progress will only be made if resources are concentrated on selected topics.

Regarding the Fourth Railway Package, a political agreement on the Technical Pillar could easily be reached before the end of the year. Informal trialogues would need to start as soon as the European Parliament rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs are appointed. The Council would therefore need to start preparing such dialogue meetings right from the beginning of the Presidency.

CER and UNIFE invite the Italian Presidency to put the Technical Pillar on top of the rail agenda of the July Working Parties. This will create a sound basis enabling the launch of informal trialogues with a solid negotiating mandate from all EU Member States.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *“The sector sees it as essential that the negotiations on the Technical Pillar progress quickly. For the EU’s rail operators, finding an agreement on the Technical Pillar is the vital precondition for them being able to perform on a single and truly open EU market. Harmonised and faster procedures will improve vehicles’ availability for all operators, and will result in naturally lowered market entry barriers for new entrants: having more efficient operators is what we wish to provide to our customers and to society.”*

“For the European rail industry, the Technical Pillar of the Fourth Railway Package is of utmost importance,” reiterates **Philippe Citroën, Director General of UNIFE**, *“Streamlined and more efficient authorisation procedures are needed in Europe to get rail products onto the market more quickly and to improve the competitiveness of our industry. The European rail industry hopes that the Italian Presidency and the Council Working Group will seize the opportunity of the summer months to prepare the trialogues, paving the way for an adoption of the Technical Pillar in autumn 2014”.*

For further information, please contact:

CER

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER)
brings together more than 70 members - European railway undertakings,



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their national associations as well as infrastructure companies. The membership is made up of long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public enterprises. CER members represent about 61% of the rail network length, more than 84% of the rail freight business and about 99% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. For more information, see www.cer.be or follow us via Twitter at [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways)

UNIFE

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UNIFE represents the European Rail Industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers more than 80 of Europe's leading large and medium sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. A further one thousand suppliers of railway equipment partake in UNIFE activities through 17 national rail industry associations. UNIFE members have an 80% market share in Europe and supply more than 50% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services. www.unife.org