



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**BRUSSELS, 14 March 2014**

*EU Transport Council adopts a favourable position on SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL, a major step towards the creation of the Joint Undertaking for Rail Research.*

UNIFE—the European Rail Industry Association, on behalf of the 115 organisations promoting the SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL initiative, lauds the Council of the European Union’s adoption of a favourable position on the regulation establishing the SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL Joint Undertaking.

SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL is an unprecedented joint effort by the European rail sector and the European Union to create a step change in rail technology in order to meet three major targets: enhancing the capacity of the European rail system to cope with increased user demand, increasing the reliability and quality of rail services, and significantly reducing the life cycle cost of the overall system.

This initiative, prepared by the European Commission, will make rail transport more attractive to millions of European passengers and freight users and boost the competitiveness of the most sustainable transport mode. SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL will encompass research, innovation and demonstration activities in all aspects of the rail system, amounting to no less than €920 Million, co-financed by the EU and the private sector under the Horizon2020 budget across the 6 year lifespan of the initiative.

**Philippe Citroën, Director General of UNIFE, the association coordinating the SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL initiative,** added: “UNIFE is very pleased with the outcome of today’s Transport Council meeting. SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL will help revolutionise rail travel and make it more attractive to end users as well as boosting the competitiveness of the Rail Industry. UNIFE would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Greek Presidency for making SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL one of their transport priorities.”

UNIFE hopes for a positive vote in the European Parliament’s ITRE Committee to adopt the draft report on the Establishment of the SHIFT<sup>2</sup>RAIL Joint Undertaking on Tuesday next week.

Further information on the initiative can also be found on the initiative’s website [www.shift2rail.org](http://www.shift2rail.org)

### **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 15 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](http://www.unife.org)