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## 10<sup>TH</sup> FLORENCE RAIL FORUM

### ***RAIL FREIGHT IN EUROPE: HOW TO IMPROVE CAPACITY AND USAGE OF THE NETWORK?***

Organised by: Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS,  
European University Institute

Villa La Fonte – Via delle Fontanelle, 18 – San Domenico di Fiesole

**18 MAY 2015**

## ■ **CONTEXT**

Improving the capacity and usage of the European freight network is one of the Commission's priorities, and it is beneficial for both the European economy and the environment. If harmoniously developed throughout Europe and well connected to the other transport modes thanks to logistic multimodal nodes, rail freight can make a significant contribution to the construction of an efficient and sustainable European transport system.

In the last few years, the European Commission has launched several initiatives to revitalise rail freight transport and the sector has been opened to competition since 2007. However, major drawbacks still exist: first and foremost, technical barriers to full interoperability remain, and network access priorities remain an issue for infrastructure shared between passenger and rail transport.

Two alternative yet complementary ways to overcome these issues and implement the European strategy for improving the performance of the European rail freight system have gained great support at the European level.

On the one hand, much experience has been gained thanks to the work of RailNetEurope, an association set up by European Rail Infrastructure Managers and Allocation Bodies to enable fast and easy access to European rail, as well as to increase the quality and efficiency of international rail traffic. One of their initiatives resulted in the development of the Rail Freight Corridors (RFCs). With the ultimate goal of increasing harmonization and interoperability of the European network, the RFCs aim at forming a network for competitive freight.

On the other hand, in 2009 rail stakeholders, companies and research centres have gathered to promote Shift2Rail, the first European initiative to deliver focused Research & Innovation (R&I) and market-driven solutions by accelerating the integration of new and advanced technologies into innovative rail product solutions, meeting key objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy and the EU Transport policy.

The aim of the 10th Florence Rail Forum will be to look at the current situation of rail freight in Europe, and understand the remaining barriers to more capacity and usage of the European freight network Focussing on industry stakeholders, regulators and policy makers the 10th Florence Rail Forum will discuss the current EU strategy and the characteristics of two major initiatives, the Shift2Rail JU and the Rail Freight Corridors.

The debate will be structured around 4 discussion questions:

- Rail freight transport in Europe: current situation and external costs of freight traffic in Europe
- How to achieve modernization and interoperability? The European strategy for rail freight
- How to increase capacity and usage of the network? The development of the Rail Freight Corridors
- How to increase capacity and usage of the network? The industry involvement in Shift2Rail and future developments.

## ■ PROGRAMME

- 08.30-08.45 ***Introduction to the Forum***  
**Matthias Finger** | Professor, Director of FSR-Transport and of the Chair of Management of Network Industries, EPFL
- A** ***Rail Freight Transport in Europe: Current Situation and External Costs of Freight Traffic in Europe***
- 08.45-10.30 **Olivier Onidi** | Director for European Mobility Network, DG MOVE, European Commission  
**Izabela Kuligowska** | Polish Office of Rail Transport, Presidency Office  
**Daniel Geraskov** | DB, Transport Policy Europe  
Round table discussions
- 10.30-10.45 COFFEE BREAK
- B** ***How to Achieve Modernization and Interoperability? The European Strategy for Rail Freight***
- 10.45-12.30 **Gilles Peterhans** | UIP, General Secretariat  
**Victor Vaugin** | ÖBB, European and International Affairs  
**Olof Kjellström** | Jernhusen AB Corporate Strategy  
Round table discussions
- 12.30-13.30 LUNCH BREAK
- C** ***How to Increase Capacity and Usage of the Network? The Development of the Rail Freight Corridors***
- 13.30-15.15 **Miloslav Kogler** | Rail Net Europe, RFC Management  
**Julie Buy** | Ministry of Transport in Belgium  
**Hinne Groot** | Netherlands Ministry of Transport  
**Germano Guglielmi** | Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, EU Regulation Office  
**Tommaso Spanevello** | European Infrastructure Managers, EU Policy  
Round table discussions
- 15.15-15.30 COFFEE BREAK
- D** ***How to Increase Capacity and Usage of the Network? The Industry Involvement in Shift2Rail and Future Developments***
- 15.30-17.00 **Olivier Onidi** | Director for European Mobility Network, DG MOVE, European Commission  
**Thomas Hennetier** | SNCF, Directorate of Railways Strategy and Regulation  
Round table discussions