European Union Agency for Railways
Josef Doppelbauer
Executive Director
Rue Marc Lefrancq 120
Valenciennes

By e-mail to Josef.DOPPELBAUER@era.europa.eu

Copy by e-mail to the chair of the ERA Management Board Mrs. Clio Liégeois
Clio.Liegeois@mobilit.fgov.be

Brussels, 29th April 2019

Promoting best practice of the involvement of the Representative Bodies in ERA workgroups

Dear Mr. Doppelbauer,

With regards to the discussion held in the Network of Representative Bodies (NRB) meeting on 27 March 2019, the Group of Representative Bodies (GRB) would like to emphasise the importance of promoting a consistent and transparent procedure for the nomination of sector experts in all workgroups of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA).

The GRB firmly believes that the systematic involvement of the Representative Bodies in all ERA workgroups related to the development of the interoperability and safety of the European railway system demonstrates the most efficient means of providing the rail sector's positions and appropriate expertise for the development of ERA recommendations, guidelines and other documents. Whether the workgroup takes place in the form of a working party, task force, workshop or other should not result in a deviation from the best practice of the Representative Bodies' involvement.

To support this best practice, the GRB calls on ERA to ensure nominations of representative experts to ERA workgroups are confirmed by the Representative Bodies prior to their launch, using the established NRB communication channel. Direct invitation of representative experts to new groups should be avoided as it may result in positions being provided which are either not known or not in line with the intended organisation's views due to the absence of internal exchange and consensus building facilitated by the Representative Bodies.

The GRB remain committed to continuing the successful cooperation with ERA via the Network of Representative Bodies and in supporting ERA in its mission to make the railway system work better for society.

Best regards,

Nick Brooks
ALLRAIL Secretary General

Gilles Peterhans
UIP Secretary General

Libor Lochman
CER Executive Director

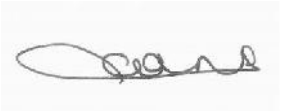
Steve Wood
FEDECRAIL Chairman Heritage Operations Group

Monika Heiming
EIM Executive Director

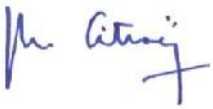
Ralf-Charley Schultze
UIRR President

Tim Gilbert
EPTTOLA President

Christoph Handel
NB-Rail Chairman



Carole Coune
ERFA Acting Secretary General



Philippe Citroën
UNIFE Director General