

Resolution Improved European Rail Mobility

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Bucharest (Romania), 30/09/2022

Recognising that:

1. 2021 was the European Year of Rail and rail transport was to be promoted as a sustainable, innovative and safe mode of transport through events, campaigns, and initiatives planned to take place throughout the European Union;¹
2. Rising train fares, due in part to inflation, have an inhibiting effect on train use;²
3. Transport and mobility accounts for a quarter of the EU's total greenhouse gas emissions, while rail and train travel only account for 0.4% of those emissions;³
4. Improving the connectivity of the European rail network is linked to the efforts of the EU and its Member States to promote environmentally friendly modes of transport and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal;⁴

Acknowledging that:

1. For Christian Democratic parties the connection between people and regions plays a central role;
2. No more than 7% of passengers and 11% of goods in Europe travel by rail, due to outdated infrastructure, outdated business models and high maintenance costs;⁵
3. Significant investment is needed to implement the Trans-European Transport Network.
4. 2021 is the first full year of application of the rules of the Fourth Railway Package. This legislative package aims to establish a fully integrated European railroad area and to remove existing and remaining legal and technical barriers;⁶

¹ https://wayback.archive-it.org/12090/20220704151232/https://europa.eu/year-of-rail/getinvolved_en

² Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat, "Mobiliteitsbeeld 2019," Kennisinstituut voor Mobiliteitsbeleid (KiM) - Mobiliteitsbeeld en Kerncijfers Mobiliteit (Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat, 2019), <https://www.kimnet.nl/mobiliteitsbeeld/mobiliteitsbeeld-2019#/>.

³ Europees Parlement, "2021 – Europees Jaar Van De Spoorwegen: Nieuws: Europees Parlement," 2021 – Europees Jaar van de spoorwegen | Nieuws | Europees Parlement, February 4, 2021, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/nl/headlines/euaffairs/20210107STO95106/2021-europees-jaar-van-de-spoorwegen>.

⁴ https://www.era.europa.eu/content/report-fostering-railway-sector-through-european-greendeal_en

⁵ Europees Parlement, "2021 – Europees Jaar Van De Spoorwegen: Nieuws: Europees Parlement," 2021 – Europees Jaar van de spoorwegen | Nieuws | Europees Parlement, February 4, 2021, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/nl/headlines/euaffairs/20210107STO95106/2021-europees-jaar-van-de-spoorwegen>.

⁶ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-modes/rail/railway-packages/fourth-railway-package2016_en



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YEPP calls on:

1. The EPP to acknowledge that rail should play an important role in connecting (remote) areas and citizens/people by becoming financially attractive. The costs and ease of use should not make people take other means of travel.
2. The EPP to promote the creation of European booking platforms and improve the alignment of timetables and ease of rebooking & cancellation between different carriers among member states. (E.g. Trans Europa Express 2.0 (German initiative) which aims to connect European cities through a combination of high speed and night trains and Eurolink, a cooperation between ProRail (Dutch) and European infrastructure managers, to achieve a European timetable for international passenger trains in the near future).⁷
3. The EPP should continue to promote the continuous development of the rail network, especially between European cities, so that they can be put into operation as quickly and easily as possible. As without these fast connections, rail will not be an alternative to other means of transport.

⁷ <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/trans-europe-express-trains/index.html>