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Draft ALLRAIL press release

Alliance of Rail New Entrants (ALLRAIL), Europe's new rail association, bringing together non-incumbent companies from the freight and passenger rail market, has been established in Brussels.

ALLRAIL has been founded by ERFA, the current home of non-incumbent rail freight companies, together with the biggest players in Europe's non-incumbent passenger rail market today: LEO Express, MTR Nordic, NTV, Regiojet, Trainline and WESTbahn.

The association forges a strong alliance between freight and passenger rail companies, who are committed to fair competition and open markets as the only way to shift freight and passengers from road to rail by offering attractive and additional choices and subsequently winning over new customers. A higher amount of competition will help save costs for customers and for the authorities ordering public services.

ALLRAIL members are hungry to invest in rail and to set up new routes and new types of services across Europe, making rail a more attractive and competitive transport mode for existing and new customers. ALLRAIL's purpose is to support the European rail sector in becoming a more competitive mode by challenging the inherited market dominance of rail incumbents. The rail sector needs to remove market access barriers to all types of infrastructure (rail tracks, infrastructure fees and rail-related facilities and services) and ensure a regulatory framework that is discrimination- and cost-sensitive. ALLRAIL supports real change.

Erich Forster, CEO of WESTbahn has been elected President of ALLRAIL and Tony Berkeley, ERFA Director, as the Vice-President. Peter Koehler, CEO of LEO Express and Nick Brooks, Head of European Affairs at Trainline, have also been elected as ALLRAIL Board Directors.

Key topics of focus for the new association will include pursuing fully opened rail markets in all EU Member States, non-discriminatory access and financing for rail rolling stock, competitive track access charges and an open data approach to rail, also on ticketing.

ALLRAIL will grow its membership base over the next months, uniting non-incumbent rail companies to take forward changes that will increase rail's competitiveness and boost rail's modal share of the transport market.

ALLRAIL looks forward to working closely with the EU institutions and the European Union Rail Agency to support the full establishment of a competitive Single European Railway Area.

ALLRAIL represents new entrants to the rail market, who want open access and fair market conditions, and sustains their role of pushing forward the development of the railway market. The members of ALLRAIL share a commitment to work towards a competitive and innovative single European railway market.

ALLRAIL was established end of March 2017 in Brussels and to date represents 7 members from across Europe: ERFA, Leo Express, MTR Nordic, NTV, Regiojet, Trainline and Westbahn.