



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Poland: vertical integration is the problem, not the solution

ERFA and ALLRAIL are very disappointed to hear that the Polish incumbent PKP is planning to integrate all public operators and infrastructure into one holding with joint management of finances, personnel & procurement<sup>1</sup>.

**Any move to even more centralised control will turn the clock backwards. Closer integration carries the major risk of protectionism** – soft instruments can be applied, such as lower track access charges, preferential access to data and unequal access to terminals.

**We already see this happening** - recent track access charge proposals by Polish infrastructure manager PKP PLK favoured in-house operator PKP Intercity at the expense of 3<sup>rd</sup> party regional operators<sup>2</sup>.

**The 4th Railway Package should be seen as an opportunity to develop a vibrant and growing rail system – rail liberalisation needs a proper chance**. The Polish rail system still has no Open Data and no through ticketing – features that have made rail liberalisation a success elsewhere. Competitive freight offerings should be embraced rather than just tolerated.

By contrast, the new plans will strengthen PKP's current dominance of freight and passenger rail even further. Devolved expertise and private investment in different parts of the value-chain of the rail sector will be treated as a nuisance.

Carole Coune, the Acting Secretary General of ERFA says "Instead of turning the clock backwards, a focus on improving quality & reliability in order **to achieve modal shift to rail** should be adopted. **This should include a framework that encourages private investment.**"

Nick Brooks, Secretary General of ALLRAIL, says: "Market separation would allow specialist firms to focus on their core competency. Efficiency could be maximised in each part of the value-chain. **Any reform plans should not contradict the goals of the EU 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Package**"

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rynek-kolejowy.pl/wiadomosci/krzysztof-maminski-holding-pkp-nie-bedzie-zagrozeniem-dla-iv-pakietu-kolejowego-86597.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mazowieckie.com.pl/sites/default/files/docs/rynek\\_kolejowy\\_pl\\_2018\\_04\\_06\\_czeslaw\\_sulima\\_\\_plk\\_chce\\_p\\_odniesa\\_stawki\\_dostepu\\_dla\\_linii\\_lokalnych\\_pdf%280%29.pdf](https://www.mazowieckie.com.pl/sites/default/files/docs/rynek_kolejowy_pl_2018_04_06_czeslaw_sulima__plk_chce_p_odniesa_stawki_dostepu_dla_linii_lokalnych_pdf%280%29.pdf)