

**Invitation - Exchange of views with Europe's
railway CEOs at their extraordinary Board
Meeting of 19 February**

Brussels, 13 December 2019

**To: First Executive Vice-President
Frans Timmermans**

European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

Dear Executive Vice-President,

On behalf of the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) I would like to express CER's sincere appreciation for the unprecedented ambition put forward in the European Green Deal, which recognises the role of rail in delivering the target of reducing transport greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2050.

Indeed, we believe that the renaissance of rail and the much-needed modal-shift away from road and air are at the heart of the contribution that the transport sector should make to deliver the Green Deal's objective.

Railways' operations are 80% electrified and increasingly low- or zero-carbon. Our commitment to improving our already high sustainability records is firm, and we will continue on this path. In addition we believe that the quality of our services is another key driver impacting our customers' modal choices: railways' ever more customer-oriented business culture is finding in the more pervasive use of digital IT solutions the way forward to offer more attractive mobility, both in the passenger and freight markets.

At the same time, many challenges lie ahead as the Green Deal's ambition needs to be channelled in a wide range of different policy areas – transport, climate, energy, financial services, taxation, employment – in order to correct the legislative imbalances which are preventing sustainable modes from triggering their full potential.

To discuss the sector's proposals and commitments further, I would like to invite you to join our CEOs at an extraordinary board meeting that will take place in Brussels on 19 February (we are ready to adapt the timing depending on your availability). We would be honoured to kick off with you the work for this legislature.

Yours sincerely,

