



1-3 April 2020  
Clarion Congress Hotel Prague\*\*\*\*

Organized by **oltis** group

[www.IRFC.EU](http://www.IRFC.EU)

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Railway Forum & Conference (IRFC) is going to be one of the leading events in the international railway calendar and will bring together top executives and decision makers, rail and logistics professionals, customers, influential politicians and institutions from Europe.

## CONFERENCE TOPICS

### 1. TRANSPORT IN THE EU AFTER 2021

Review of the previous period and visions after 2021 (presentations of the European Commission, European Parliament, ERA representatives) from the Single European Railway Area point of view • Position of the sector organizations • Representatives of small operators in passenger and freight transport

### 2. ERA AS A SYSTEM AUTHORITY

Explanation of changes, their implementation and first experience of ERA and the National Railway Authority • Vehicles manufactures representatives, significant national operators, infrastructure managers and small operators

### 3. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AFTER 2021 - MOTIVATION FOR COUNTRIES FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Review of current results in H2020 and Shift2Rail programmes • Rules for new Horizon Europe programme and Shift2Rail2 programme • Shift2Rail and Shift2Rail SRG representative • The EU Member States Representative • Presentation of successful projects • Testing, support and building of testing capacities, possibilities of exploitation of infrastructure with low intensity of traffic, sharing of capacities etc.

### 4. PERSPECTIVE OF TEN-T AND „ SILK ROAD“ INTERCONNECTION

Presentations of the European Commission, UIC, OSJD, CCTT • ERTMS as an interoperability tool • Professional association of carriers and infrastructure managers, both national and international

### 5. FUTURE HIGH SPEED RAIL NETWORK WITHIN THE CEE

Situation in CEE • Levelling out of the differences in network quality within the Europe • Creation of future railway interoperability system • Supporting of competitiveness of rail freight transport

## PRESS RELEASE - IRFC 2017

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Railway Conference was launched in the Clarion Congress Hotel Prague on 22-24 March 2017. The conference bore the vision “Let’s make European Railway EASY”. The conference was supported by ERA (EU Agency for Railways), Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic, UIC (International Union of Railways), UNIFE (Association of the European Rail Industry), Shift2Rail JU, OSJD (Organization for Cooperation of Railways) and CER (Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies). The conference was also supported by 12 partners, particularly international organizations. The conference was traditionally organized by OLTIS Group, which is the reputable company with successful similar events on a European scale.

Participants attended this year’s event from 27 countries, including 46 top officials of the leading rail companies and organizations. The list of speakers contains 45 speakers including representatives of the European Commission, ministries of transport, UIC, ERA, UNIFE, CER, IBS, UIRR and other major European organizations and institutions.

The International Rail Forum, which was a substantial part of the conference IRFC 2017, was held on 21 March 2017 and was released under the slogan “RAILWAY IN THE CROSSROADS OF TIMES – VISIONS AND CHALLENGES”. It was a very fruitful event where the leaders of the railway industry had an opportunity to discuss the problems and find solutions towards the appraised obstacles. Speakers of the forum were the representatives of the European Parliament (Martina Werner) and the top representatives of the European Commission (Maroš Šefčovič, Matthew Baldwin), international organizations UIC and CER (Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Libor Lochman, UNIFE (Miroslav Fukan), ERA (Josef Doppelbauer), Shift2Rail JU (Carlo Borghini) and the Ministries of transport (Joe Mizzi, the Minister, Malta, Tomáš Čoček, Deputy Minister, Czech Republic).

The first day of the IRFC 2017 conference was moderated by Matthew Baldwin (European Commission) and Simon Fletcher (UIC). Then main players of the rail industry raised the challenges on the subject of railway competitiveness.

In the session “Developing an Attractive and Competitive Railway Sector” Josef Doppelbauer, the ERA Executive Director, focused his presentation on what can the European Union Agency for Railways do in order to make rail attractive and competitive, concentrating on the technical market integration with the objective to have a better service of rail at lower cost.

The independent and important part of the first conference day was the section Digitalization in rail transport.

The conference programme of the second day was divided into four sessions, moderated by Simon Fletcher and Michael Robson and dedicated to the following topics: News and best practices in freight and logistics, Implementations of railway interoperability (TAF/TAP TSI) and Railway innovations, projects and IT systems.

## PREVIOUS YEARS AUSPICES / NEGOTIATING AUSPICES



## FROM THE 6<sup>TH</sup> IRFC IN 2017

