

Oana Gherghinescu officially takes up duties as Executive Director of the EU Agency for Railways

Valenciennes, France, 2 June 2025

Today marks a new chapter for the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), as Oana Gherghinescu officially takes office as its Executive Director (ED). With over a decade of experience inside the Agency and a strong background in EU policies and economics, Ms Gherghinescu steps into the role with deep insight of the sector and a clear vision for its future.

A Romanian national, the new ERA ED holds a PhD in International Economics, as well as degrees in economics and business administration. Her career has been rooted in service to the European project, to safe and seamless rail transport, and to building bridges between institutions, Member States, the citizens and the businesses they serve.

Having worked at ERA for more than 11 years, she knows the Agency and its potential, and her vision for the next years reflects this experience and in-depth institutional knowledge. Commenting on her new role, Ms Gherghinescu stated: "I am honoured to begin my mandate as Executive Director of ERA. Our Agency has a pivotal role in enabling safe and seamless movement of passengers and goods within a connected, sustainable, and secure Europe. Our common purpose is to grow the optimal role for rail in the transport mix, in order to help moving more people and goods on time, safely and with competitive prices, and to boost the EU rail manufacturing industry's and operators' potential to grow beyond the current moderate expectations, in Europe and also beyond."

The priorities of the new ERA ED reflect both continuity and transformation. She is committed to cooperating closely with Member States. "My objective is to have a stronger connection and response to the needs and realities on the ground in each of the Member States" says the new ERA ED, "and to further improve rail safety through shared learning, tailored capacity building and mutual trust, while removing any persisting cross-border bottlenecks."

Ms Gherghinescu will push for taking costs down from the rail sector through a combination of technical standardisation, safeguarding stability of regulatory specifications over longer cycles, simplification of existing processes, and smart uptake of innovation. "Technical interoperability needs to be backed up by a very solid business case and smart deployment strategies, while fully respecting safety requirements, and including a realistic model of financing across Europe" says Oana Gherghinescu. These are critical elements for the fast and effective implementation of key projects like the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) or the High-Speed Rail.

Magda Kopczyńska, Director-General - Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport: "Congratulations, Oana Gherghinescu. I look forward to working together to advance the vision of a Single European Railway

Area and to uphold strong safety standards across EU railways. Your experience and insight will be important as the Agency moves forward."

With her appointment, ERA continues its mission of shaping a Single European Railway Area that is more connected, more resilient, and more competitive, and to deliver real, measurable impact where it matters most.

Background information:

About the EU Agency for Railways: The European Union Agency for Railways was established in Valenciennes in 2004, and has more than 200 employees representing more than 22 European Member States.

ERA has been providing EU Member States and the European Commission with technical assistance in the development and implementation of the Single European Railway Area. This comprises enhancing technical interoperability and harmonising rules, promoting simplified access for customers, developing a common approach to safety and safety culture, advising on telematics applications and ERTMS (European Rail Traffic Management System), monitoring National Safety Authorities and Notified Bodies and facilitating the exchange of information between the railway actors in Europe.

Since 16th June 2019 the EU Agency for Railways is mandated to issue single safety certificates and vehicle (type) authorisations valid in multiple European countries and to ensure an interoperable European Rail Traffic Management System.

Media Contact: press@era.europa.eu

120 Rue Marc Lefrancq | BP 20392
FR-59307 Valenciennes Cedex
Tel. +33 (0)327 09 65 00
www.era.europa.eu

