



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels – 12 February 2018

CEN, CENELEC and ERA restate their commitment to working together

The signature on 12 February 2018 of the renewed cooperation agreement between the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) and the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) of the European Commission will further enhance the harmonization of technical standards for Railways.

Renewed agreement reaffirms longstanding cooperation

Through the agreement, CEN and CENELEC together with ERA will provide a comprehensive set of technical documents aiming to guarantee a high level of railway safety and interoperability, and improve the competitive position of the railway sector.

The agreement reaffirms a longstanding cooperation in the field of technical standardization in support of Interoperability and Safety of Railways established under the previous Cooperation Agreement signed in May 2007. The partners already collaborate in a wide range of projects and technical fields, and aim at reducing the number of contradictory technical specifications still existing in the sector.

Speaking on the occasion of the signing ceremony in Brussels on 12 February, **Dr. Josef Doppelbauer**, Executive Director of the European Union Agency for Railways said:

“This agreement will strengthen the long-standing favourable cooperation between CEN and CENELEC and we look forward to working together to establish a sustainable and efficient railway transport system in Europe, taking also benefit of a reinforced collaboration between researchers, innovators and standardizers”.

Elena Santiago Cid, Director General of CEN and CENELEC, added: “We look forward to continuing our productive co-operation with the Railway Agency and we welcome the good working exchanges aiming at developing harmonized standards supporting the Safety Essential Requirements of the Interoperability of the Rail System Directive, and complementing the Technical Specifications of Interoperability developed by the Agency.”

Collaboration important for uptake of standardization in EU policies

Standardization is a key element in many EU policies and for achieving policy goals. Therefore, a strong cross-sector and multi-disciplinary cooperation between CEN and CENELEC, and the European Agencies is vital to ensure effective uptake of standardization in EU policy making. As the Agency in charge of development of railway specifications, ERA provides the EU Member States and the Commission with technical assistance in the fields of railway safety and interoperability. This involves the development and implementation of Technical Specifications for Interoperability and a common approach to questions concerning railway safety.

About CEN and CENELEC

CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are recognized by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as European Standardization Organizations responsible for developing standards at European level. These standards set out specifications and procedures in relation to a wide range of materials, processes, products and services.

The members of CEN and CENELEC are the National Standardization Bodies and National Electrotechnical Committees of 34 European countries. European Standards (ENs) and other standardization deliverables adopted by CEN and CENELEC, are accepted and recognized in all of these countries.

European Standards (ENs) contribute to enhancing safety, improving quality, facilitating cross-border trade and strengthening the European Single Market. They are developed through a process of collaboration among experts nominated by business and industry, research institutes, consumer and environmental organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders.

CEN and CENELEC work to promote the international alignment of standards in the framework of technical cooperation agreements with ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission).

CEN-CENELEC website: www.cencenelec.eu

CEN website: www.cen.eu

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About the ERA

The European Union Agency for Railways is based in Metropole Lille/Valenciennes (France). It helps to build an integrated European railway area by reinforcing rail safety and promoting interoperability. Set up in 2006, ERA develops common technical specifications and common approaches to safety, working closely with stakeholders from the rail sector as well as with national authorities, the EU institutions and other interested parties. Featuring a dedicated Safety Unit, ERA also monitors and reports on rail safety in the EU.

For more information, please visit: www.era.europa.eu

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