

TERM OF ERA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOSEF DOPPELBAUER EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER FIVE-YEAR TERM

VALENCIENNES, France, 27th November 2019

Valenciennes, 27th November 2019 – The Management Board of the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) today extended the term of the Executive Director Josef Doppelbauer for a second five-year term.

Taking office in January 2015, Josef Doppelbauer led the Agency to a new era as a European authority, where EU-wide vehicle authorisation, safety certification, and ERTMS trackside approval are granted. Preparing the Agency for these new tasks entailed a thorough internal restructuring, with staff numbers going up from roughly 160 in 2015 to close to 200 in 2019. The Agency welcomed a number of new highly trained experts from all over Europe in order to ensure the new tasks can be performed at all times and in all official EU languages.

Another important item under Josef Doppelbauer's leadership was the reduction of national rules, which is seen as vital precondition for the functional integration of the European rail market. Whereas there were more than 16.000 technical rules in 2016, the number has been reduced to little more than a 1.000 in 2019, with further reductions in the pipeline.

A further milestone in the past five years was the release of stable and retro-compatible specifications for the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS). The European industry is now able to rely on these specs in order to generate truly interoperable rail traffic in Europe. ERTMS will also be an important issue for the coming five years, with new specifications due to be released in 2022, and ERTMS architecture being adapted to technical game changers such as new, satellite-based train communication, automation, cyber-security and many more.

The Agency will have to plan for another increase of workload for the new authorisation and certification tasks in June 2020, when all EU countries will have transposed the so-called Fourth Railway Package, the legal basis for the Agency's role as European authority for railways.

Josef Doppelbauer has been a tireless advocate of promoting a positive safety culture for railways in Europe, resulting in the launch of the [European Railway Safety Culture Declaration](#) in 2018, and signed by more than 150 railway CEOs so far. The Agency will continue to campaign for safety culture under Josef Doppelbauer's leadership in the coming five years.

Other priorities for his coming term are setting the appropriate regulatory framework for the digital transformation of European railways and its integration into the multimodal transport chain for both

passenger and freight. Climate change makes the work of the Agency, in developing a successful Single European Railway Area, essential to ensuring Rail can play its role in meeting the challenge.

About the EU Agency for Railways

The European Union Agency for Railways was established in Valenciennes (offices) and Lille (meeting facilities) in 2004. Its approx. 200 staff represent more than 22 European Member States and speak multiple languages. 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 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. The purpose of these activities is expressed by the slogan "Making the railway system work better for society."

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[Josef Doppelbauer](#)

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