

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **ALLRAIL welcomes 2021 as the “European Year of Rail”**

**ALLRAIL welcomes the EU Commission’s proposal to designate 2021 as the European Year of Rail to promote rail as a sustainable, innovative & safe mode of transport.**

The EU Commission’s “Clean Planet for all” strategy aims to ensure net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Even sooner than this – by 2030, Europe needs to reach 50+ % reduction in CO2 emissions.

Sadly, the Status Quo in rail does not work. EU taxpayers spend billions of euros each year subsidising the system but growth remains poor. Yet there is clear evidence that, in the limited cases where rail market opening has already occurred, results have benefited passengers, taxpayers, growth of the sector and the environment.

### **What must the EU Green Deal include so that the “Year of Rail” can be celebrated?**

**1. Open Data for Rail & Mandatory Through Ticketing**– EU citizens should be able to:

- search and book ALL rail options between any 2 places at ALL rail ticket sales channels, including cheapest/fastest rail options that combine different operators.
- have the confidence that they will reach their final destination at no extra cost, even if there is a missed connection during the journey.
- If a one-way journey features in an official rail journey planner – with approved connection times - there should be passenger rights coverage from start until end.

The [Recast of Rail Passengers' Rights & Obligations Regulation \(EC\) 1371/2007](#)<sup>1</sup> is currently being discussed at triilogue in Brussels – it can give solutions to all the above.

➤ **Urgent appeal to EU lawmakers: please do not waste such a great opportunity.**

**2. Fair Access to Track Infrastructure**

- Access to infrastructure for new entrant operators must be guaranteed – the only way to achieve same choice on the tracks that we see in other transport modes. Usage of state-owned infrastructure should be charged based upon direct costs.

**3. Fair Access to Rolling Stock**

- State guarantees and financing options for rolling stock must fairly available to all operators, not just the historical incumbents. Rolling stock that has been financed from European & national taxpayer funds must be fairly available to all operators.

By contrast: simply giving new directly awarded subsidy to the same market dominant players that failed to deliver growth in the past will neither be fast nor effective.


ALLRAIL Secretary General Nick Brooks says: “we look forward to co-operating with EU stakeholders to promote rail as the most passenger-friendly mode of transport”.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32007R1371>

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