

Further international co-operations

CER (Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies)

Primary task of CER is to represent the interests of the member railways before the EU institutions and, as a representative organization, to participate proactively in the European legislative process. It currently has 67 railway companies and infrastructure managers. The organization plays a key role in the dialogue with the European institutions (European Parliament, Commission and Council), in coordinating and representing the interests of the member railways.

The primary goal of the CER is to create a balanced division of the modes of transport and to divert traffic to rail. Its activities cover all areas relevant to the railways, such as infrastructure development, passenger and freight issues, public services, the environment, and research and social dialogue.

More information on CER is available at www.cer.be.

ERA (European Union Agency for Rail)

One of the aims of the European Union's transport policy is to create a single European railway area. This requires a common technical regulation, which is done by the European Railway Agency.

The main tasks of the European Railway Agency are to strengthen the safety of the European railway system, to improve the interoperability of the European railway system, to set up a European system for the certification of vehicle maintenance workshops, and to promote a uniform system for the training and recognition of train drivers.

More information on ERA is available at <https://www.era.europa.eu/>.

UIC (International Union of Railways, Paris)

The UIC was founded in 1922 in Paris by European railway companies, including MÁV, in order to ensure the technical and operational conditions for unhindered rail transport. There are currently 210 member organizations participating in the work of the world organization.

The UIC's priority is to support rail transport worldwide to meet the challenges of sustainable development. As a technical platform, UIC supports the work of other railway organizations (CER, EIM).

More information about the UIC is available at www.uic.org.

PRIME (Platform of Rail Infrastructure Managers in Europe)

PRIME was created at the end of 2013 as a European platform for infrastructure managers in cooperation with the Commission. PRIME aims to achieve a Single European Railway Area, better deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS), benchmarking and exchange of best practices between infrastructure managers. VPE Ltd participates at management level in PRIME meetings.

More information about PRIME available at https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/multisite/primeinfrastructure/prime-news_en.

OSZsD (Organisation for Co-operation between Railways, Warsaw)

The main task of the OSZsD is to develop rail links between Europe and Asia, with a special focus on transport law issues. In addition to the ministries of transport of each country, its members include the central public transport authorities and the central bodies of the railways, and it currently has 29 full members.

More information about the OSZsD is available at: <https://en.osjd.org/>

CIT (International Rail Transport Committee, Bern)

The CIT's main task is to implement the International Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and to keep it under constant review. In this context, particular emphasis has been placed on standardising contractual relations between customers and railway undertakings, between railway undertakings themselves and between railway undertakings and infrastructure managers, and on representing the interests of its members before legislators and the authorities.

CIT currently has 137 members railway companies that operate international passenger and/or freight services.

More information about the CIT is available at: www.cit-rail.org