

Moving Europe towards a sustainable and safe railway system without frontiers.

Valenciennes, 08/11/2023

Testimonial

Despite the undeniable ecological benefits of rail transport, the modal share of railways in the European Union is declining. One of the main reasons for the lack of competitiveness of rail is the fragmentation of the railway system into national systems, with national rules and national administrative procedures.

This fact was already evident when the cross-border TRAXX locomotives were launched in the early 2000s. Since then, the then President of the Locomotives Division, Edmund Schlummer, has personally campaigned at numerous trade fairs and events, including EU presentations and in the media, to bring about standardisation of the vehicle authorisation system at European level.

With his commitment, Edmund Schlummer was an important driving force behind the 4th railway package, which has made it possible for the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) to authorise vehicles for operation throughout Europe since 2019. Since June 2019, ERA has already authorised over 65,000 vehicles, and currently 70% of vehicle authorisations in the EU are issued by the Agency.

The European Union Agency for Railways thanks Mr. Schlummer for more than 20 years of continued commitment to the issue, actively promoting the opportunities that have arisen until today, for example with the 4th railway package, and motivating his business partners to actively take advantage of these benefits.

Josef DOPPELBAUER
Executive Director