

Brexit: the CER point of view

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Introduction



- CER members wish that the outcome of the negotiations will allow for a framework of relations between the EU and the UK that is as close as possible to the present framework
- Railways are a network industry that operate in a heavily regulated environment. Legal certainty for rail business and in the relations between the EU and the UK is of fundamental importance

Access to the market



- Essential to guarantee access for UK operators to the EU market and for EU operators to the UK market on the basis of symmetrical conditions.
- Commercial services as well as services under a Public Service Contract should be accessible on both sides by both sides
- Regulators on both sides should keep close relations, to guarantee effective enforcement of existing rules.

Mobility of staff



- Free movement of workers between the UK and EU should be kept up as far as possible
- Free movement in all sectors is critical for railways to have access to the best talents in all those industrial domains that belong to the same value chain and cooperate with railway companies

Technical rules (1)



- The harmonisation of technical rules and mutual recognition processes in the Single European Rail Area is a precondition for market access
- It should continue in the EU on the path set by the Technical Pillar of the Fourth Railway Package while taking into account the need for some flexibility in the application of its rules for non EU members

Technical rules (2)



- The European Union Agency for Railways will have to find an appropriate UK counterpart
- Appropriate UK representatives should have access to a direct regular exchange with the Agency and their national counterparts. Conversely EU, EFTA and EEA representatives should have the possibility of a regular exchange with the appropriate UK counterparts

Intermodal competition



- Redressing intermodal competition by establishing fairer competitive conditions among transport modes must remain a priority for both the EU and the UK
- CER calls on the EU and the United Kingdom to agree that the future policies will follow the same path towards modal shift to more sustainable modes of transportation

Customs and border crossings



- Smooth passenger and freight transport between the UK and EU is essential to the development of the Single European Rail Area
- Bottlenecks at border crossings will create delays, extra (high) costs for stakeholders concerned and operational issues on respective networks
- CER supports the protection of the Common Travel Area for passengers and seamless border procedures for rail freight travelling between the UK and Ireland

EU research and innovation



- Technical, legal and financial arrangements in the field of EU research and innovation should be taken in to allow UK operators, manufacturers and research institutions to contribute to EU research and innovation programmes
- Appropriate arrangements should be sought for the ongoing research programmes, in order to ensure continuity of ongoing research projects in which UK-based organisations are involved

Transitional arrangement



- The EU industry, including the railway sector, will require certainty in order to continue to provide its services until its status in the new relationship between the UK and the EU is clarified
- This certainty could be given by introducing a bilateral agreement on land transport

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