Press release

Brussels, 4 January 2019

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic

Shift2rail and the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic have agreed to build cooperation by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. It is foreseen that such synergies may result in combining research and innovation activities as well as coordinating real time large-scale demos in view of deployment.

'This new cooperation will focus on the identification of common priorities and potential synergies through the exchange of information and participation in relevant events, designed to promote the participation of actors from across the rail industry, including by benefitting from European programmes', says Mr. Carlo Borghini, Executive Director of Shift2Rail.

The mutual benefits of this cooperation are clear, as demonstrated by the level of participation and interest of SMEs, regional industry as well as other actors in the Shift2Rail Programme and its calls, and the strategic role of the Czech Republic in the support of smart specialization in the railway sector.

'Czech suppliers get a chance to participate in the production and introduction of modern technologies in railway transport thanks to new European projects. The Czech Republic plans the construction of high-speed rail lines that require the highest safety and technological standards. We are also about to invest in the existing railway network. The Memorandum contributes to the fulfilment of the unexceptionable potential of the Czech railway network', says Czech Minister of Transport, Mr. Dan Ťok.

This collaboration will enhance the development and implementation of new technologies to increase the attractiveness, safety, reliability and efficiency of rail transport for passengers and freight in Europe, and particularly the Czech Republic. This will contribute to the European goal to promote a modal shift from other non-sustainable modes of transport and mobility to rail.