



Press Release

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A future-oriented rail system for Europe: Shift2Rail, CEN and CENELEC sign a partnership agreement

The Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) signed today a Memorandum of Understanding that will bring forward the standardization work on the railway sector in Europe.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at formalising the already existing close collaboration between CEN and CENELEC, two of the officially recognised European Standardization Organizations, and the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking. Through this agreement, the participating organizations are committed to foster the uptake of innovation in the railway sector and contribute to maintaining the EU as a world leader.

The importance of the issue for Europe cannot be understated: the railway sector in the continent directly employs over one million people, and indirectly around 1,3 million employees (building infrastructure, subcontracting, maintenance, etc.). In terms of manufacturing, over 45% of the world market for rail products lays in the hands of European manufacturers. It is therefore crucial to maintain the sector's competitiveness. Furthermore, the railway sector is at the heart of the European ambitions of a transition towards a fully green economy. To raise awareness of its importance, 2021 has been declared by the European Union as the [European Year of Rail](#).

In recent years, CEN and CENELEC have worked extensively on standardization for the railway sector – a fundamental aspect to ensure the uptake and interoperability of new technologies across the whole EU. The close collaboration with the European institutions and the Industry, as represented within Shift2Rail, has been key for progress made in the area.

Through the Memorandum of Understanding, CEN, CENELEC and Shift2Rail commit to deepen their existing constructive cooperation by working together to identify areas where European standardization can further contribute to the innovation of the railway sector. Examples of such areas include:

- Collaborating on multimodal ticketing and passenger information to ensure rail contributes to a smart and smooth passenger travel experience;
- Making rail freight competitive, meeting the current customer needs and ensuring to implement the benefits of digitalisation;
- Contributing to the development of new concepts such as the certification of new materials in order to benefit from cost reduction related to onsite tests.

Speaking on the occasion, **Carlo Borghini, Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking**, commented: *"The objective of this consolidated cooperation is to boost the competitiveness of the*

railway sector by accelerating the market uptake of innovative solutions and enhancing the economic benefits thanks to standardization. Two excellent examples are the ongoing work on the digital automatic coupler and the future generic framework for virtual testing which will be provided as an official Shift2Rail contribution to the relevant CEN Standardisation Working Group. We look forward to these and other concrete outcomes to arise from this fruitful collaboration.”

Elena Santiago Cid, Director General of CEN and CENELEC, added: “Our long-lasting cooperation with S2R is a great example of the success story of standardization: through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in standard-making process, we can boost innovative technologies and contribute to the European twin digital and green transitions – as reflected in our Strategy 2030. We look forward to our ever-strengthening cooperation to contribute together to safe, innovative and efficient railway systems in Europe, with the strong support of standards as strategic tools to create trust, enhance the competitiveness of the European rail industry and benefit citizens with quality and reliable services”.

For more information on standardization in the railway sector and on CEN, CENELEC and Shift2Rail’s cooperation:

- [CEN and CENELEC Railway Standardization](#)
- [CEN and CENELEC’s brochure “Standards@Rail”](#)
- [Shift2Rail article ‘Publication of the fourth version of the Standardisation Rolling Development Plan’](#)

About the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking

Shift2Rail is the first European rail public private partnership tasked with developing strategically focused research and innovation (R&I) and market-driven solutions, integrating these to create the railway systems of the future. With a total value of €920 million for the period 2014-2021, funded through the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, Shift2Rail is promoting the competitiveness of the European rail industry, ensuring the attractiveness of rail as a safe and sustainable low carbon transport mode. This way, Shift2Rail aims to meet the changing transport/mobility needs of EU citizens and the economy.

About CEN and CENELEC

CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are recognized by the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as European Standardization Organizations responsible for developing standards at European level.

The members of CEN and CENELEC are the National Standardization Bodies and National Electrotechnical Committees of 34 European countries. European Standards (ENs) and other standardization deliverables adopted by CEN and CENELEC, are accepted and recognized in all of these countries. European Standards (ENs) contribute to enhancing safety, improving quality, facilitating cross-border trade and strengthening the European Single Market. CEN and CENELEC work to promote the international alignment of standards in the framework of technical cooperation agreements with ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission).



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