



## Press Release

Brussels, 28 May 2024

### Europe's Rail names new Executive Director

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**The Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-Rail) is pleased to announce that the EU-Rail Governing Board has appointed Giorgio Travaini as the new EU-Rail Executive Director. With a career spanning 18 years in the transport sector, including a notable tenure as ad interim and acting Executive Director of EU-Rail, Giorgio brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role.**

Giorgio's professional journey encompasses diverse leadership roles, showcasing his adeptness in navigating the complexities of the rail sector. His comprehensive understanding of EU-Rail's operations qualifies him to steer the organisation effectively, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and fostering collaborative partnerships across Europe.

Assuming the position of Executive Director, Giorgio will take on the responsibility for overseeing EU-Rail's organisation, cultivating relationships with stakeholders, and driving initiatives aimed at accelerating the development and adoption of cutting-edge rail technologies.

**Magda Kopczyńska**, Director-General for Mobility and Transport at the European Commission and Chair of Europe's Rail's Governing Board, expressed her confidence in Europe's Rail under Giorgio's leadership, saying: *"Rail has the potential to greatly contribute to resolving many of Europe's mobility challenges. First though, it must embrace innovation and digitalisation more emphatically. I know that Europe's Rail will continue to advance rail in Europe, helping to ensure the competitiveness and efficiency that will see it pass the milestones set out in our Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, and to take up its rightful place in the EU's transport network. Congratulations to Giorgio!"*

Commenting on the appointment, **Giorgio** remarked: *"I am deeply honoured to lead EU-Rail as Executive Director. The European rail sector stands at a pivotal juncture, with unprecedented opportunities to enhance mobility, mitigate carbon emissions, and foster economic growth. I am eager to work with our dedicated team and Members, driving EU-Rail towards focused R&I that can deliver upon a sustainable transport and mobility for our society, ensuring our efforts leave a lasting positive impact."*

Innovations in rail represent pivotal advancements in addressing the realisation of a Single European Rail Area, tackling transportation challenges and advancing sustainability objectives set out in the European Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. As Europe embarks on its journey towards a greener and more sustainable future, strategic investment in rail technology remains paramount. EU-Rail continues to play an important role in gathering the rail sector and the Union towards a reliable, efficient, future proof and integrated European railway network, bolstering with innovation the global competitiveness of the European rail industry.



Giorgio's leadership will be instrumental in steering the Joint Undertaking in the implementation of the EU-Rail's Master Plan, ensuring that the European rail sector remains at the forefront of technological innovation and sustainable development.

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**About Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking**

The Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-RAIL) is the European partnership for rail research and innovation under the Horizon Europe programme (2020-2027) and the successor to the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking. The partnership aims to accelerate research and development in innovative technologies and operational solutions. It supports EU policies and objectives for the rail sector, its competitiveness, and the European rail supply industry. EU-Rail accelerates the use of integrated, interoperable and standardised technological innovations necessary to support the Single European Railway Area.

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