

4 July 2022

Vienna Declaration

A commitment of the European railway sector to support Ukrainian Railways (UZ)

Adopted at the CEO Summit in Vienna on July 9th, 2022

The participants of the CEO Summit 2022,

- *Emphasizing* our common European values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the respect for law and respect for human rights.
- *Reiterating* our common values of unity, solidarity and universality, unanimously adopted by the members of the International Unions of Railways (UIC) at the General Assembly on 6 June 2009.
- *Aiming* at supporting the Ukraine in line with the policies of the European Union.
- *Emphasizing* our full solidarity with the Ukrainian people through actively participating in humanitarian efforts to support refugees fleeing their war-torn country.
- *Stressing* the fact that Ukrainian railway workers' lives are put at risk daily, to keep up railway transport, in order to rescue refugees and to secure supply for the population living in military contested areas.
- *Pointing out* that Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war on Ukraine has caused severe damage to the European society and economy, including the European railway sector.
- *Indicating* that the ongoing systematic destruction of railway infrastructure in Ukraine will amplify the current humanitarian catastrophe.
- *Recognizing* the imminent risk for food security in many countries worldwide due to the blocking of grain transports via ships.
- *Underlining* that functioning railway systems and harbours are a prerequisite to food security, and thereby an important contribution to peace and stability in broad regions of the world.
- *Highlighting* that a properly operating railway system will be fundamental for the future reconstruction of the Ukrainian economy and society.
- *Emphasizing* that the Ukrainian railway infrastructure and railways in general should be regarded as the backbone of a humanitarian corridor for people as well as for food, raw materials, medicine, and essential goods.

draft version to be discussed and adopted at the CEO Summit on 9 July

Therefore, the signatories jointly express their commitment to promoting the following measures:

1. Commitment to delivering technical equipment and spare railway parts and to support the reconstruction of Ukrainian Railways by transferring know-how

The signatory companies are aware that the Ukrainian railway infrastructure and railway undertakings are currently living up to enormous exigency while being exposed to unprecedented violence and destruction. To help Ukrainian railways to continue their life saving endeavours, the signatories commit to deliver, if available and wherever feasible, technical railway equipment and spare parts urgently needed.

The signatory companies are convinced that a functioning railway system will be key for the future reconstruction of the country. To support Ukrainian railways, the signatory companies commit to sharing know-how and providing technical expertise for the reconstruction of Ukrainian railways, wherever feasible.

2. Appeal to the European Union to ensure that the proposed “RebuildUkraine” facility includes aid for reconstructing the infrastructure in Ukraine, especially railway infrastructure

The signatory companies are convinced that the railway system is of eminent importance for the European economy, especially for agriculture commodities exports, ores, steel and machinery. A functioning railway infrastructure provides the backbone for all rail services, especially for re-establishing Ukraine’s international trade network.

In order to ensure that Ukraine can restart international transport and trade in their full capacity, the signatory companies call on the European Union Institutions to establish as soon as possible the “RebuildUkraine” facility. This facility should ensure sufficient financing for the reconstruction of railway infrastructure in Ukraine. Moreover, the European Union should promote the Ukrainian railway infrastructure’s integration into the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

Signatories