

# ALL ABOARD FOR A EUROPEAN YEAR OF RAILWAY WORKERS



The EU has made 2021 the **European Year of Rail** – a year to celebrate rail's essential role as an environmentally sustainable and equitable form of transport.

And while this is a great thing to highlight, equally essential are the roles of the people who get passengers and goods by rail from point A to B. Rail transport depends on railway workers.

That's why, for the European Transport Workers' Federation and the trade union movement, this is the **European Year of Railway Workers** – a year to celebrate the importance of their work, and for European leaders to commit to investment in the rail workforce.

## **RAILWAY WORKERS GUARANTEE SAFE AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORT OF GOODS AND PASSENGERS**

### ▶ **No train moves without railway workers.**

But the sector is facing difficulties in attracting new workers. Excessive concern with making profits has led to worse working conditions, which keeps young people and women away, while a large part of the workforce is soon expected to retire.

### ▶ **We say it's time for a change! 2021 is also a year for recovery.**

The EU plans to invest over 800 billion euros in economic recovery from the pandemic. And we can all agree: massive investment should generate massive employment. Policy makers must invest in rail and railway workers to achieve a social and sustainable recovery.



# RAILWAY WORKERS HAVE KEPT US GOING – NOW HELP US KEEP THEM GOING.

We're calling on European leaders to take action – for a rail sector that's more attractive to work in, and to show real commitment to bringing more women and young people into employment, while ensuring good working conditions for all workers in the sector.

- ▶ **Rail is green and made possible by its workers.**  
Investments in green transport must be matched by investments in improving jobs and working conditions, to make rail as sustainable socially as it is environmentally.
- ▶ **Having more than one railway worker on board a train means safety for passengers.**  
Driver-only operations put you at risk in emergencies, while failing to provide good-quality services on board.
- ▶ **Privatisation puts profits first and comfort and safety second.**  
That's why rail must be in public hands, sufficiently and publicly funded.
- ▶ **Computers and robots cannot run the railway system.**  
Railway workers must have a say in how new technological changes are achieved – to keep rail safe for both workers and passengers.

## JOIN US ON THE CONNECTING EUROPE EXPRESS!

Between 2 September and 7 October 2021, the **Connecting Europe Express (CEE)** will be travelling through Europe, starting from Lisbon and ending in Paris. Along the way, ETF and trade unions will be taking part in events to welcome the train and show the indispensable contribution railway workers make to Europe's railway system.

### Don't miss out!

Find out more about our work and planned activities during this important year, and beyond.



European Transport Workers' Federation



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