



## **ETF's Train Drivers Call for Time-Monitoring Tool on World Day for Safety and Health at Work**

On this World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the locomotive drivers of the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) issue a stark warning: there is still no European system in place to monitor the working, driving, and rest times of train drivers and other safety-critical mobile railway workers.

As the rail system becomes ever more fragmented and cross-border operations continue to grow, national authorities are unable to track whether drivers are adhering to essential safety-related time limits — particularly those who work across multiple countries or for more than one employer. This lack of oversight endangers not only workers' well-being but also the safety of the entire rail network.

Currently, there is no reliable European tool to ensure that drivers are not working beyond safe limits. Fatigue among safety-critical staff is a silent risk on the rails — one that puts not only the health of workers at stake but also the safety of passengers, freight, and the public at large.

ETF calls for the urgent development of a European digital tool that can reliably and objectively monitor driving, working, and rest times for all train drivers and mobile rail staff. Such a tool must:

- Record time data consistently across countries and employers;
- Be easy to use and fully compliant with data protection rules;
- Ensure that the strictest applicable national rule is followed in cross-border situations;
- Be overseen by competent public authorities with the power to enforce compliance;
- Cover all types of employment, including freelancers, agency workers, and staff working for more than one operator.

Monitoring of working and rest time must not depend on fragmented systems or voluntary reporting. It must be embedded in a single, trustworthy framework that protects safety, respects workers' rights, and ensures proper accountability for all rail undertakings.

ETF stands firm in the belief that safety at work can never be compromised. The people who keep Europe's railways moving deserve a system that protects them — and the passengers and goods they carry — from the risks of fatigue and overwork.



**Gerald Trofaier**

Vida  
Austria

**Marco Hörtenhuber-  
Stuhl**

Vida  
Austria

**Wannes Gielis**

ACV Puls  
Belgium

**Nenad Mrgan**

SSH  
Croatia

OSŽ  
Czechia

**Florent Malaisé**

CFDT Cheminots  
France

**Pascal Couturier**

CFDT Cheminots  
France

**Thomas Cavel**

CFDT Cheminots  
France

**Hervé Pineaud**

CGT Cheminots  
France

**Fabrice Charriere**

UNSA Ferroviaire  
France

**Frédéric Meyer**

UNSA Ferroviaire  
France

**Helmut Mundt**

EVG  
Germany

**Martin Burkert**

EVG  
Germany

**Tim Janotta**

EVG  
Germany

**Fabio Lisco**

Uiltrasporti  
Italy

**Georges Melchers**

FNCTTFEL  
Luxemburg

**Ed Visser**

FNV  
Netherlands

**Fred van Oort**

FNV  
Netherlands

**Mathijs Zinger**

FNV  
Netherlands

**Carsten Olesen**

DJF  
Norway

**Audun Sør-Reime**

NJF  
Norway

**Line Steinseth**

NLF  
Norway

**Matthias Hartwich**

SEV  
Switzerland

**Simon Weller**

ASLEF  
UK

**Semen Karikov**

VPMU  
Ukraine