




Tuesday 22/04/2025		Wednesday 23/04/2025		Thursday 24/04/2025		Friday 25/04/2025	
Markets & trends		Skills & young talent		Technical day		Innovations & next steps	
8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration TUC RAIL, Avenue Fonsny 39, 1060 Brussels, Rooms: RER-GEN & TGV-HST		8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration, University of Antwerp Prinsstraat 13, Hof van Liere - F. De Tasiszaal		8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration, Infrabel Academy, Dubois-Thornstraat 50, 1080 Brussels		8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration, University of Antwerp Prinsstraat 13, Hof van Liere - Willem Elsschot zaal	
Timeline Topic of the block	9:00-09:45 Introduction to Antwerp Rail School 2025 Welcome and introduction by organisation, setting the scene	9:00-10:30 Soft skills in the rail industry Discuss the skills needed to make railways work best		9:00-10:30 Welcoming by Infrabel, and innovations from a technical perspective Discuss current technical challenges and innovations in railways		9:00-10:45 Next steps A broader perspective on groundbreaking innovations	
Speaker 1 Subject Speaker 2 Subject Speaker 3 Subject	Prof. Dr. Jochen Maes, University of Antwerp Welcoming. State of affairs, rail transport in 2025; and beyond. Dr. Raimonds Aronietis, University of Antwerp Practicalities and agenda Prof. Juan Montero, Florence School of regulation The EU's railway regulation, an economic perspective - single European railway area	Jonathan Ngyuen, UNIFE Initiatives supported by the industry to address the EU's rail sector's skill gaps Dr Mark van Hagen, NS (Dutch Railways) Soft skills - The positive impact of train staff on customer satisfaction Andrea Aglietti Zanon, Certifer The importance and impact of integrated safety in rail		Lander Decorte, Infrabel Opening remarks Gert Schevernels, Infrabel Electricity and energy transition in railways Tony Ward, Infrabel From GSM-R to FRMCS. The future of railway connectivity Bruno Vanlede, Lineas Testimonial by the head of fleet management on hybrid and other innovations in practice		Kris Neyens, VIL - Flemish institute for Logistics Hyperloop in the Benelux, any chance? Nicolas Furio, Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking – An ambitious rail R&I programme to boost rail Christoph Klose, Siemens ERJU System Pillar. A European initiative promoting standardisation, interoperability, and the integration of advanced technologies Mario Huster, Siemens ATO (GoA2) to optimize traffic and energy flow (Signaling X & Sidytrac)	
Timeline Topic of the block	09:45-11:15 The fourth railway package, new opportunities? What are the EU's intentions, where are the new market boundaries, and how did this operationalise already?						
Speaker 1 Subject Speaker 2 Subject Speaker 3 Subject	Caroline Franzen, Belgian Federal Public Service Mobility Pilot projects in tendering of rail services in Belgium Isabelle Van Looy and Arno Falque, Infrabel The challenges and opportunities of rail transport in the 21st Century Kasper Jorgensen, EY Study on passenger and freight rail transport services' prices to final customers						
11:15-11:30 Coffee break		10:30-11:00 Coffee break		10:30-11:00 Coffee break		10:45-11:00 Coffee break	
Timeline Topic of the block	11:30-12:45 The fourth railway package, lessons learned from different EU Member States Getting insights from partially opened markets, in Europe.	11:00-12:30 Skills in the railway industry, good practices: diversity and inclusion Expanding the horizon		11:00-12:30 User experience. Cross border ticketing in the EU Barriers and chances		11:00-12:45 Next steps. Railway investments and networks	
Speaker 1 Subject Speaker 2 Subject Speaker 3 Subject	Claudio Brenna, Technische Universität Berlin Price impact of high-speed rail competition between multiple full-service and low-cost operators on less congested corridors in Spain Vilem Paril, Politecnico di Milano Long-distance rail in Europe: Comparing the forms of head-on competition across Europe Adriaan Roeleveld, NS (Dutch Railways) Market regimes and governance for domestic passenger transport by rail	Edith Jonkers, Infrabel Diversity and inclusion in Rail Nina Wennink and Jana Cornelis, Lineas Attracting , onboarding, training and skills of new staff, a challenge // D&I Parinaz Bazeghi, UIC Lessons learned from the Translate4Rail and XBORDER Language project		Alvaro Ungurean, (trip.com) Will rail overtake short-haul air travel in the long run, or not? Geert Vanbeveren, Siemens Mobility Improved customer experience (CX) in passenger railways. Use cases for last mile, disruption management. Data as added value to passengers and operators Jon Worth, author and advocacy for railways Cross border travel by rail in the EU: barriers.		Alberto Mazzola, CER (Community of European Railways) Smart and affordable rail services in the EU: a socio-economic and environmental study for High-Speed in 2030 and 2050 Willem-Jan Zwanenburg, Rebel Next steps. Railway investments and networks Keynote speech: Gareth Dennis How the Railways Will Fix the Future	
12:45-13:30 Lunch break provided by SNCB		12:30-13:30 Lunch break provided by Alpha Trains		12:30-13:30 Lunch break provided by Infrabel		13:00-14:30 Closing lunch provided by Siemens University Club, Prinsstraat 13, Antwerp	
Timeline Topic of the block	13:30-15:30 The fourth railway package, practical challenges How to organise the ambitions in practice, on a dense railway network	13:30-15:30 Students presenting their research		13:30-15:00 Technical site visit Infrabel Academy		14:30-17:30 Technical site visit Port of Antwerp-Bruges	
Speaker 1 Subject Speaker 2 Subject Speaker 3 Subject Speaker 4 Subject	Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET) Goodbye monopolies: statement of passenger rail competition in Europe Melissa Bloch en Koen de Keersmaeker, Infrabel Railway process and capacity in practice. Warner Oldenziel, SMA Integrated Public transport system in Switzerland	Master's students from the University of Antwerp received their assignment six weeks ago. Following the Antwerp Rail School, they will write a paper on their chosen topic. In this session, they present preliminary findings and seek feedback. Feel free to join them, reach out, help and provide feedback.		The Infrabel Academy is a training and development center established by Infrabel, Belgium's railway infrastructure manager. Guided site visit 3 guides, 2 in English and 1 in Dutch, 90-minutes tour. You will be assigned a group at the onboarding in the morning.		Visit the rolling stock maintenance facility in Antwerp, Port of Antwerp Bruges' shunting yard and neutral hill A cooperation of SNCB, Lineas and Siemens (optional, but mandatory for students) Bus leaves at 14:45 sharp at Paardenmarkt 103 (church), Antwerp Back at Antwerp's Central Railway Station at 17:30	
15:30-16:00 Coffee break		15:30-16:00 Coffee break		15:00-15:30 Coffee break			
Timeline Topic of the block	16:00-17:00 The fourth railway package. A debate on the future of railways, with lessons learned today in mind Thomas Moerman, Infrabel Frédéric Nyssens, SNCB (Belgian railways) Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET) Vincent Pouyet, Alpha Trains Warner Oldenziel, SMA Frederick De Backer, Lineas	16:00-17:00 Round table of educators and railway entrepreneurs How do we bridge the gap between education and the industry Filip Degroote, Thomas More University College Mechelen Filip Aerts, KdG (University College Antwerp) Kristof Oeyen, TEX Rail Training België Lisa Carrette, Infrabel Bert Van Den Eynde, SNCB (Belgian railways) Guus de Boer, Alpha Trains Nina Wenninck, Lineas Jonathan Nguyen, UNIFE		15:30-17:00 Breaktrough innovations in the railway industry Dr. Raimonds Aronietis, University of Antwerp Greening Flemish road transport through e-trucks and eHighways Dr. Mitchell van Balen, ERA (European Railway Agency) The impact of Digital Automatic Coupling (DAC) for the industry and operators Pieter Moelans, SNCB (Belgian railways) The use and benefits of remote diagnostics data in the maintenance of rolling stock Sam De Smet and Guillaume Hendrickx, OTIV Autonomous solutions for rail vehicles			
17:00 - 18:00: network drink organised by SNCB Transport to Antwerp at own pace				17:00 - 18:00 Transport to Antwerp at own pace		In cooperation with INFRABEL SIEMENS    Universiteit Antwerpen Faculteit Bedrijfswetenschappen en Economie	