

	Tuesday 22/04/2025	Wednesday 23/04/2025	Thursday 24/04/2025	Friday 25/05/2025
	<b>Markets and trends</b>	<b>Skills en young talent</b>	<b>Technical day</b>	<b>Innovations and next steps</b>
	8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration SNCB offices, near Brussels-South station, 1060 Brussels	8:30-09:00 Welcoming and registration, University of Antwerp Prinsstraat 13, Hof van Liere - Willem Elsschot zaal	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
<b>Timeline</b>	9:00-09:45 Topic of the block <b>Introduction to Antwerp Rail School 2025</b> Welcome and introduction by organisation, setting the scene	9:00-10:30 Topic of the block <b>Soft skills in the rail industry</b> Discuss the skills needed to make railways work best	9:00-10:30 Topic of the block <b>Welcoming by Infrabel, and innovations from a technical perspective</b> Discuss current technical challenges and innovations in railways	9:00-10:30 Topic of the block <b>Next steps</b> A broader perspective on groundbreaking innovations
Speaker 1 Subject	<b>Prof. Dr. Jochen Maes, University of Antwerp</b> Welcoming. State of affairs, rail transport in 2025; and beyond.	<b>Jonathan Nguy, UNIFE</b> Initiatives supported by the industry to address the EU's rail sector's skill gaps	<b>Lander Decorte, Infrabel</b> Opening remarks	<b>Kris Neyens, VIL - Flemish institute for Logistics</b> Hyperloop in the Benelux, any chance?
Speaker 2 Subject	<b>Dr. Raimonds Aronietis, University of Antwerp</b> Practicalities and agenda	<b>Dr Mark van Hagen, NS (Dutch Railways)</b> Soft skills - The positive impact of train staff on customer satisfaction	<b>Koen De Gussemé, Infrabel</b> Electricity and energy transition in railways	<b>Judit Sandor, Shift2Rail</b> Shift To Rail programme. An overview of results and impact
Speaker 3 Subject	<b>Prof. Juan Montero, Florence School of regulation</b> The EU's railway regulation, an economic perspective - single European railway area	<b>Eduardo Frigolet, Certifer</b> The importance and impact of integrated safety in rail	<b>Tony Ward, Infrabel</b> From GSM-R to FRMCS. The future of railway connectivity	<b>Christoph Klose, Siemens</b> ERJU System Pillar. A European initiative promoting standardisation, interoperability, and the integration of advanced technologies
<b>Timeline</b>	09:45-11:15 Topic of the block <b>The fourth railway package, new opportunities?</b> What are the EU's intentions, where are the new market boundaries, and how did this operationalise already?		<b>Bruno Vanlede, Lineas</b> Testimonial by the head of fleet management on hybrid and other innovations in practice	<b>Mario Huster, Siemens</b> ATO (GoA2) to optimize traffic and energy flow (Signaling X & Sidytrac)
Speaker 1 Subject	<b>Frédéric Nyssens, SNCB (Belgian railways)</b> The new concession 2023-2032, new ambitions and impact on long-term planning.			
Speaker 2 Subject	<b>Isabelle Van Looy and Arno Falque, Infrabel</b> The challenges and opportunities of rail transport in the 21st Century			
Speaker 3 Subject	<b>Kasper Jorgensen, EY</b> 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	10:30-11:00 Coffee break
<b>Timeline</b>	11:30-12:45 Topic of the block <b>The fourth railway package, lessons learned from different EU Member States</b> Getting insights from partially opened markets, in Europe.	11:00-12:30 Topic of the block <b>Skills in the railway industry, good practices: diversity and inclusion</b> Expanding the horizon	11:00-12:30 Topic of the block <b>User experience. Cross border ticketing in the EU</b> Barriers and chances	11:00-12:45 Topic of the block <b>Next steps. Railway investments and networks</b>
Speaker 1 Subject	<b>Claudio Brenna, Technische Universität Berlin</b> Price impact of high-speed rail competition between multiple full-service and low-cost operators on less congested corridors in Spain	<b>Leen Laes, Lineas (tbc)</b> Attracting, onboarding, training and skills of new staff, a challenge // D&I		<b>Alberto Mazzola, CER (Community of European Railways)</b> Smart and affordable rail services in the EU: a socio-economic and environmental study for High-Speed in 2030 and 2050
Speaker 2 Subject	<b>Vilem Paril, Politecnico di Milano</b> Long-distance rail in Europe: Comparing the forms of head-on competition across Europe	<b>Edith Jonkers, Infrabel</b> Diversity and inclusion in Rail	<b>Geert Vanbeveren, Siemens Mobility</b> Improved customer experience (CX) in passenger railways. Use cases for last mile, disruption management. Data as added value to passengers and operators	<b>Willems-Jan Zwanenburg, Rebel</b> Next steps. Railway investments and networks
Speaker 3 Subject	<b>Adriaan Roeleveld, NS (Dutch Railways)</b> Market regimes and governance for domestic passenger transport by rail	<b>Parinaz Bazeghi, UIC</b> Lessons learned from the Translate4Rail and XBORDER Language project	<b>Jon Worth, author and advocacy for railways</b> Cross border travel by rail in the EU: barriers.	<b>Keynote speech: Gareth Dennis</b> 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
<b>Timeline</b>	13:30-15:30 Topic of the block The fourth railway package, practical challenges How to organise the ambitions in practice, on a dense railway network	13:30-13:45: Walk to PSA Antwerp's offices (PSA Antwerp, Napelsstraat 79, 2000 Antwerp) 13:45-15:30: 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	<b>Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET)</b> Goodbye monopoly: The effect of open access passenger rail competition on price and frequency in France on the high-speed Paris-Lyon line	<b>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.</b>	<b>The Infrabel Academy is a training and development center established by Infrabel, Belgium's railway infrastructure manager.</b>	<b>Visit the rolling stock maintenance facility in Antwerp, Port of Antwerp Bruges'</b> <b>shunting yard and neutral hill</b> A cooperation of SNCB, Lineas and Siemens (optional, but mandatory for students)
Speaker 2 Subject	<b>Melissa Bloch en Koen de Keersmaecker, Infrabel</b> Railway process and capacity in practice.	In this session, they present preliminary findings and seek feedback.	<b>Guided site visit</b>	
Speaker 3 Subject	<b>Elmer van Buuren, European Sleeper</b> Lessons learned of a new Night-Train operator.		3 guides, 2 in English and 1 in Dutch, 90-minutes tour.	
Speaker 4 Subject	<b>Warner Oldenziel, SMA</b> Le système intégré des transports publics en Suisse et Belge (2050)			
	15:30-16:00 Coffee break	15:30-16:00 Coffee break	15:00-15:30 Coffee break	Bus leaves at 14:45 sharp at Paardenmarkt 103 (church), Antwerp Back at Antwerp's Central Railway Station at 17:30
<b>Timeline</b>	16:00-17:00 Topic of the block <b>The fourth railway package.</b> A debate on the future of railways, with lessons learned today in mind	16:00-17:00 Topic of the block <b>Round table of educators and railway entrepreneurs</b> How do we bridge the gap between education and the industry	15:30-17:00 Topic of the block <b>Breakthrough innovations in the railway industry</b>	
	<b>Infrabel (tbc)</b> <b>Frédéric Nyssens, SNCB (Belgian railways) (tbc)</b> <b>Elmer van Buuren, European Sleeper (tbc)</b> <b>Nick Brooks, Allrail</b> <b>Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET)</b> <b>Vincent Pouyet, Alpha Trains</b> <b>Warner Oldenziel, SMA</b> <b>Frederick De Backer, Lineas (tbc)</b>	<b>Filip Degroote, Thomas More University College Mechelen</b> <b>Filip Aerts, KdG (University College Antwerp)</b> <b>Kristof Oeyen, TEX Rail Training België</b> <b>Lisa Carrette, Infrabel</b> <b>Bert Van Den Eynde, SNCB (Belgian railways)</b> <b>Guus de Boer, Alpha Trains</b> <b>Nina Wenninck, Lineas</b> <b>Jonathan Nguyen, UNIFE</b>	<b>Dr. Raimonds Aronietis, University of Antwerp</b> Greening Flemish road transport through e-trucks and eHighways <b>Dr. Mitchell van Balen, ERA (European Railway Agency)</b> The impact of Digital Automatic Coupling (DAC) for the industry and operators <b>Pieter Moelans, SNCB (Belgian railways)</b> The use and benefits of remote diagnostics data in the maintenance of rolling stock <b>Sam De Smet and Guillaume Hendrickx, OTIV</b> Autonomous solutions for rail vehicles	
	17:00 - 18:00: network drink organised by SNCB Transport to Antwerp at own pace	17:00 - 18:30 Dennie Lockefer chair Free to join the event by University of Antwerp's transport department - Keynote speech 'war for talent in logistics' - Best Master thesis award 2024 - Complementary drinks and snacks	17:00 - 18:00 Transport to Antwerp at own pace	