



| 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 | Prof. Dr. Jochen Maes, University of Antwerp Welcoming. State of affairs, rail transport in 2025; and beyond. | Jonathan Ngyuen, UNIFE Initiatives supported by the industry to address the EU's rail sector's skill gaps | | Lander Decorte, Infrabel Opening remarks | | Kris Neyens, VIL - Flemish institute for Logistics Hyperloop in the Benelux, any chance? | |
| Speaker 2 Subject | Dr. Raimonds Aronietis, University of Antwerp Practicalities and agenda | Dr Mark van Hagen, NS (Dutch Railways) Soft skills - The positive impact of train staff on customer satisfaction | | Koen De Gussemé, Infrabel Electricity and energy transition in railways | | Nicolas Furio, Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking – An ambitious rail R&I programme to boost rail | |
| Speaker 3 Subject | Prof. Juan Montero, Florence School of regulation The EU's railway regulation, an economic perspective - single European railway area | Andrea Aglietti Zanon, Certifer The importance and impact of integrated safety in rail | | Tony Ward, Infrabel From GSM-R to FRMCS. The future of railway connectivity | | Christoph Klose, Siemens ERJU System Pillar. A European initiative promoting standardisation, interoperability, and the integration of advanced technologies | |
| 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? | | | Bruno Vanlede, Lineas Testimonial by the head of fleet management on hybrid and other innovations in practice | | Mario Huster, Siemens ATO (GoA2) to optimize traffic and energy flow (Signaling X & Sidytrac) | |
| Speaker 1 Subject | Caroline Franzen, Belgian Federal Public Service Mobility Pilot projects in tendering of rail services in Belgium | | | | | | |
| Speaker 2 Subject | Isabelle Van Looy and Arno Falque, Infrabel The challenges and opportunities of rail transport in the 21st Century | | | | | | |
| Speaker 3 Subject | 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 | 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 | Edith Jonkers, Infrabel Diversity and inclusion in Rail | | Alvaro Ungurean, (trip.com) Will rail overtake short-haul air travel in the long run, or not? | | 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 | |
| Speaker 2 Subject | Vilem Paril, Politecnico di Milano Long-distance rail in Europe: Comparing the forms of head-on competition across Europe | Nina Wennink and Jana Cornelis, Lineas Attracting , onboarding, training and skills of new staff, a challenge // D&I | | 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 | | Willem-Jan Zwanenburg, Rebel Next steps. Railway investments and networks | |
| Speaker 3 Subject | Adriaan Roeleveld, NS (Dutch Railways) Market regimes and governance for domestic passenger transport by rail | Parinaz Bazeghi, UIC Lessons learned from the Translate4Rail and XBORDER Language project | | Jon Worth, author and advocacy for railways Cross border travel by rail in the EU: barriers. | | 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 | Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET) Goodbye monopolies: statement of passenger rail competition in Europe | 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. | | The Infrabel Academy is a training and development center established by Infrabel, Belgium's railway infrastructure manager. | | 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) | |
| Speaker 2 Subject | Melissa Bloch en Koen de Keersmaeker, Infrabel Railway process and capacity in practice. | In this session, they present preliminary findings and seek feedback. Feel free to join them, reach out, help and provide feedback. | | 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. | | | |
| Speaker 3 Subject | Warner Oldenziel, SMA Integrated Public transport system in Switzerland | | | | | | |
| Speaker 4 Subject | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | 16:00-17:00 Round table of educators and railway entrepreneurs How do we bridge the gap between education and the industry | | 15:30-17:00 Breaktrough innovations in the railway industry | | | |
| Thomas Moerman, Infrabel Frédéric Nyssens, SNCB (Belgian railways) Florent Laroche, University Lyon (TransportNET) Vincent Pouyet, Alpha Trains Warner Oldenziel, SMA Frederick De Backer, Lineas | | 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 | | 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 | | In cooperation with INFRABEL SIEMENS  LINEAS  Universiteit Antwerpen Faculteit Bedrijfswetenschappen en Economie | |
| 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 | | | |