

European Parliament  
Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (Imco)  
Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)

cc DG Move, IRG rail

By e-mail

03.06.2025

Subject: **challenges for new railway operators to use the French network**  
Please reply to: Josef Schneider, [josef.schneider@epf.eu](mailto:josef.schneider@epf.eu)

Dear MEP,

On behalf of the European Passengers' Federation (EPF), we wish to raise once again the ongoing challenges concerning cross-border rail services between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe via France.

Over the past months, EPF has been actively warning relevant European bodies about this situation:

- October 2024: We addressed a letter to the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), underlining that the issues at stake are not merely technical, but also deeply rooted in market access and competition.
- January 2025: A follow-up letter was sent to Mr. Santamato (DG MOVE) which remains unanswered to date.
- April 2025: We reached out to members of the TRAN and IMCO Committees, drawing attention to the deterioration of cross-border rail pilots, including RailNetEurope pilot services such as Barcelona–Amsterdam and Barcelona–Toulouse/Montpellier.

Despite these efforts, there has been little reaction from the European level so far, and no significant progress has been observed in terms of concrete actions or follow-up.

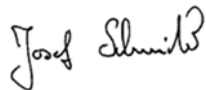
Today, they are still offered only limited frequencies between key destinations. This constrained supply leads to high prices and missed opportunities to improve connectivity. More service opportunities must be guaranteed to make rail a competitive and attractive option.

Beyond the clear environmental benefits of rail over air travel, these services are crucial for passengers. They enhance system resilience, reduce reliance on transfers through major hubs, and provide better, more direct connectivity for underserved regions.

EPF has significant experience in engaging constructively with operators and stakeholders to improve international rail services—our continuous dialogue with Eurostar being a notable example. We are open to exploring how we can collaborate with you to ensure that cross-border connections are properly restored and improved, with passengers' interests at the core.

We urge you to raise this issue in relevant committee discussions or consider initiating a written question to the Commission. We would appreciate your support in identifying concrete next steps at the European level and welcome the opportunity to collaborate on making real progress.

Yours sincerely,



**European Passengers' Federation**