

# Connecting Europe through High-Speed Rail

EESC – PG-T meeting

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European Passengers' Federation  
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# European Passengers' Federation

**We are the voice of public  
transport users in Europe.**

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Promote sustainable mobility

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Improve end-to-end journey experience

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Tackle transport poverty

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Defend better passenger rights

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Always ask *'What's in it for users?'*

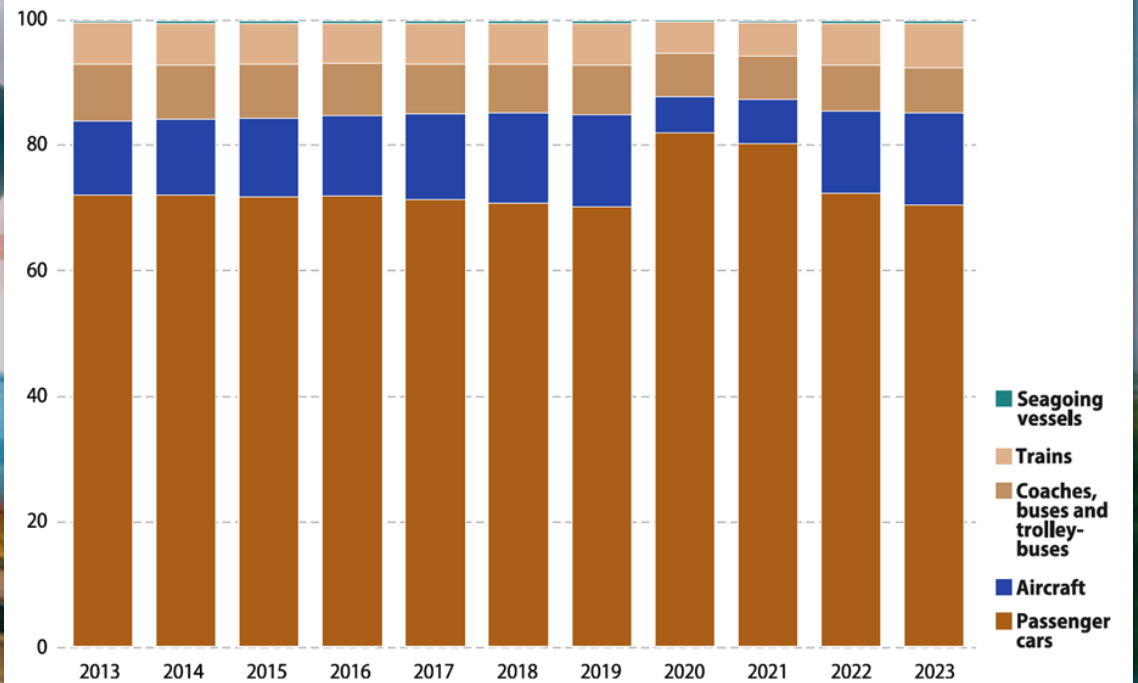


# Strengths of rail

- Large volumes
- High speed
- Very safe
- Sustainable & energy efficient
- Backbone of a seamless multimodal mobility system

## Modal split of passenger transport

(% based on passenger-kilometres, EU, 2013–23)



Source: Eurostat – Key figures on European transport – 2025 edition – available <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-key-figures/>

# Good news: people willing to switch

- ... main conditions being: availability, cost, speed (see for ex. Special Eurobarometer 495)
- Green Deal chapter on transport: “Achieving sustainable transport means **putting users first** and providing them with **more affordable, accessible, healthier and cleaner alternatives** to their current mobility habits.”



Maslow's pyramid, applied to public transport (CIPTEC, Peek and van Hagen)



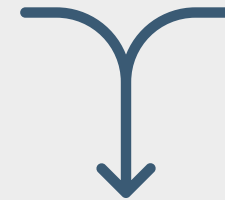
# Passengers are confused and frustrated!

*How do I book a trip cross-border in the EU?*

*Why do I see different prices on different websites? How do I get to the cheapest one?*

*What happens if my train to the airport is delayed?*

*Is there any bus connection in the airport or station of my arrival or should I take a taxi?*



**They might take the easiest solution.  
But... Sometimes that's not the most sustainable!**

# High-Speed Rail Action Plan

❑ **Needed: A state of the art operational mission: More trains.**

→ Priorities guided by passenger demand

❑ **Unlocking the potential of rail infrastructure investments.**

→ Make optimal use of infrastructure and prioritise integration

❑ **Making rail faster, but also more affordable and price-competitive.**

→ Improved efficiency, healthy competition, level playing field

❑ **Structural funding for a solid modal shift.**

→ Sufficient funding for rail & public transport as budgetary priority



**European  
Passengers'  
Federation**

# Thank you

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## **EPF position papers:**

[Connecting Europe through High-Speed Rail](#)  
[EPF priorities for future EU action](#)



[EPF conference: 5-6. June 2026, Maastricht](#)

