



PRESS RELEASE

The Minister for Transport

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For contact
Martin Hein
Head of Communication

Phone 41 85 14 83
trm@trm.dk
www.trm.dk

Conference on the costs of rail

On 4 and 5 November 2025, The Danish Presidency of the EU hosted the conference Cutting Costs in Rail in Copenhagen, in collaboration with the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Railways, EU-Rail, and the Danish Civil Aviation and Railway Authority

At the conference, high-level participants from the national governments, European institutions, and the railway sector discussed the high costs of establishing, maintaining, and running railway services, and how to lower these costs.

“Railway costs have increased significantly in recent years. Some reasons are hard to fix – such as price increases due to general inflation. Others – such as excessive bureaucracy and lack of harmonisation – can be worked on. It was therefore great to see participation in the discussions from Member States, industry leaders, and the EU institutions, where several potential solutions were raised. Now we must follow up on these solutions, and we intend to do so in the remainder of the Danish Presidency of the EU”, says Jacob Heinsen, Danish Permanent Secretary of State for Transport.

“We are grateful to the Danish EU Presidency for initiating this crucial debate. Now that we have consensus on the way forward, we must put words into action. The ERA team stands ready to do its part, be it for clear and stable technical specifications, an industrial approach to ERTMS, or by streamlining administrative processes. By joining forces, we can shape rail’s competitive edge as an affordable, safe, and fully standardised mode of transport that seamlessly crosses EU borders and is produced at scale”, says Oana Gherghescu, Executive Director at the European Union Agency for Railways.

The Danish Presidency of the EU presented a draft joint declaration with a run-down on cutting costs in rail, prepared by



the Danish Presidency, the European Commission, and the European Union Agency for Railways, which will be discussed at the board meeting of the European Union Agency for Railways on 18 November 2025.

The final declaration is expected to be publicly presented in the near future following the board meeting of the European Union Agency for Railways.

Annexes to this press release include the conference programme, slides from the feature presentations, and a Presidency Summary of the discussions at the conference.