



ETF Railways Steering Committee Statement of Solidarity with Belgian Railway Unions

The ETF Railways Steering Committee stands in full solidarity with our Belgian colleagues as they face unprecedented threats to the integrity of their railway system, working conditions, and social dialogue under the plans of the new government.

The proposed 'cadenced offer' of the Belgian railways, including the closing of smaller stations, is a direct attack on the unity and efficiency of the national railway system, jeopardising operational coherence and opening the door to fragmentation and privatisation. Such a move is not about improving mobility but serves a political agenda that undermines the principles of a strong and integrated public railway network.

Moreover, the dismantling of HR-Rail, the erosion of statutory employment, and the weakening of social dialogue represent a clear attempt to undermine workers' rights, collective bargaining, and the stability of railway employment. These measures risk worsening working conditions, job security, and the quality of public railway services.

A strong, unified, and well-supported public railway system is crucial for sustainable transport and social cohesion. Attacks on the rights of Belgian railway workers are attacks on all European railway workers. We strongly oppose any attempts to weaken collective bargaining structures, limit union influence, or diminish the quality of railway jobs.

We call on the new Belgian government to abandon these reckless plans and engage in genuine social dialogue with the unions to find solutions that safeguard workers' rights, passenger interests, and the future of Belgian rail.

The ETF Railways Steering Committee will continue to support Belgian railway unions in their fight to protect public rail services, fair working conditions, and the principles of social justice in the railway sector.

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