High Level Freight Meeting (9:00 -17:00)

0. Welcome (9:00 – 9:15)

* By Chairman Clemens FÖRST, ÖBB RCG
* Libor LOCHMAN , CER
* Jean-Pierre LOUBINOUX, UIC

1. A Compelling Case for Rail Freight (9:15 – 12:00)

2018 marks the start of a heated European political debate on crucial dossiers potentially affecting rail freight. The discussion mostly affecting rail freight will be around:

1. The EU budget for transport (MMF dossier: MultiAnnual Financial Frameworks) which sets the envelop that will be assigned to transport in the EU budget,
2. The setting of road tolls to be applied to road freight (Eurovignette Dossier) which determines the level playing field between road and rail
3. The revision of the Combined Transport Directive
4. Electronic Customs

These discussions may carry over to the next European legislative period (2019 – 2014). Therefore, in view of the new legislature, it is also important to carve our messages towards the upcoming European Commission and the European Parliament which will be renewed in 2019. OakTree Partners, a consultancy hired by the Freight CEO Task Force will present a new “storytelling” with argument to promote rail freight and ensure its viability and development.

Freight CEOs will be invited to discuss the messages and to reflect on ways to make targeted grass-root promotion of them at National level, with a view to influencing European political debates.

*(Coffee break of 30 min. included)*

WALKING NETWORKING LUNCH (12:00 – 13:00)

*With an opportunities to network with Logistic Managers of Shippers, members of the European Shippers Council (ESC)*

2. Exchange of Views with CUSTOMERS (13:00 – 14:45)

Like last year, there will be an exchange of view with Logistic Managers from a number of Shippers who are members of ESC (European Shippers Council).

This year, we will have an opportunity to share selected elements of our strategy (to be discussed in the morning) with them in an attempt to get them onboard before the political guest joins the meeting.

COFFEE BREAK (14:45 – 15:15)

*with an opportunity to network with Logistic Managers of the Shippers members of the European Shippers Council (ESC)*

3. Exchange of views w. EUROPEAN COMMISSION (15:15 – 16:45)

This year, the new Director for Land Transport Directorate of the European Commission, **Elisabeth WERNER**, will honor us with her presence. Freight CEOs will be able to hear about the Commission’s priorities for the year to come.

They will also have the opportunity to share their concerns based on the discussions that they will have had among themselves in the morning, and with the shippers after lunch.

4. Conclusions and date of next meeting (16:45 – 17:00)