

PRESS RELEASE

Policies and economics for a competitive Europe

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The Transport Research Arena (TRA) has come to an end. The 2022 edition was held in Lisbon and welcomed 2,200 attendees on the spot at the Lisbon Congress Centre.

Each day focused on a specific theme related to the green transition of the transport industry, the subject of the last plenary session being Policies and Economics for a Competitive Europe. Economic recovery and resilient transport require transformative policies, collaborative planning frameworks and enhanced financial tools for sustainable and smart mobility.

"Innovation is the one topic that makes the rail supply industry really competitive. In the past, the rail supply industry had to innovate itself, using self-funded money. But, in the last years, with the help of the Commission, with the Joint Undertaking EU-Rail, we found a really good way of moving forward. Meaning in Europe we can now work as a sector: the rail supply industry, the railways' operators, the Commission and Member States are all working together to create the innovation and novelty solution for rail transport.", said Antonella Trombetta, Director of European Affairs at Hitachi Rail STS.



Image 1 - Plenary 4: Policies and Economics for a Competitive Europe

Commenting EU's strategic autonomy and the possibility of limiting imports also affecting exports, Maria da Graça Carvalho, MEP and member of the ITRE Committee on Industry, Research and Energy said: "Closing ourselves is not how we solve our problems, we solve our problems by creating the right conditions to keep the industry that we still have and to attract the ones that have moved away because of bureaucratic challenges."

"I want to insist on is the coherence of timeline of the different programs that the Commission is offering us. For example, the automotive sector is backing its future on electronics. We need the power electronics for electrification, we need it automation and connectivity. So it's very important that scientific development is also applied to the software needs of the entire automotive sector. If we're going to allow over budgets just on the hardware without thinking of the applications, mobility will suffer from that", explained Jean-Luc di Paola-Galloni, Vice President at Valeo, on the needs of the industry to have clarity in frameworks from policymakers.



Image 2 - Closing Ceremony

"Large scientific conferences are not designed to reach consensus on major issues, but rather to provide insightful discussions that can then lead to opening or renewing conversations with interesting peers, reinforcing or weakening dominant perspectives and bringing forward new perspectives on the topics. TRA is essentially a moment for launching new ideas, its outcomes being first felt at a personal level and, over time, evolving into collective wisdom. It has been a content-rich, beautifully organized conference and a visible happiness of Together Again", José M. Viegas, Professor Emeritus, University of Lisbon, concluded this edition of the Transport Research Arena.

See you in Dublin in 2024!