

# **DEUTSCHEBAHN**

## **Symposium on Competition & Regulation in the Rail Sector, January 29, 2026**

The rail sector is under great pressure to modernize and transform, with a considerable backlog of investment in infrastructure throughout Europe. At the same time, the strategic importance of rail is greater than ever before, as its systemic relevance has been clearly demonstrated in the multiple crises of recent years.

In Germany, customers' expectations of rail quality are often not being met. Federal Transport Minister Schnieder has set out three pillars for the turnaround with the "Agenda for satisfied customers on the railways": Reforms at Deutsche Bahn, measures by the Federal Government and the activation of the sector. At the same time, European transport policy is providing impetus for greater efficiency and cross-border connections with initiatives such as the new Capacity Regulation, the Military Mobility Package and the Action Plan for High-Speed Rail.

In two panel discussions, we will shed light on specific implementation requirements and the need to adapt the legal framework in order to strengthen the railways. Central questions are: How can the infrastructure be consistently renovated while keeping ongoing operations stable? How can adequate and predictable infrastructure financing be ensured? How can the framework for track access charging be developed in such a way that the efficiency of transport and infrastructure companies is guaranteed? What measures can be taken to noticeably and efficiently improve quality and punctuality for customers? How can intelligent capacity management be used to increase the reliability of the rail system?

Together with experts from the industry and politics, we will discuss how we can tackle these complex tasks in the interests of a customer-oriented future.

**We are looking forward to discuss  
with:**

**Professor Jörg Rocholl**

President of the European School of Management and Technology Berlin

## **Evelyn Palla**

Evelyn Palla, Vorsitzende des Vorstands Deutsche Bahn AG

Chairwoman of the Management Board and CEO of Deutsche Bahn AG

## **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**

EU Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism (tbc)

## **Regina Kraushaar**

Regina Kraushaar Staatsministerin für Infrastruktur und Landesentwicklung des Freistaats Sachsen

Saxon Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development

## **Andreas Gehlhaar**

Head of the Railways Department at the Federal Ministry of Transport

## **Dr Markus Hunkel**

Dr. Markus Hunkel, Chief Executive Officer RDC

Chief Executive Officer RDC

## **Dr Philipp Nagl**

CEO DB InfraGO

## **Joachim Berends**

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Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Directors for Rail Freight Transport Verband  
Deutscher Verkehrsunternehmen e. V. (VDV)

## **John Voppen**

John Voppen, CEO ProRail

## **Dr Daniela Brönstrup**

Vice President of the German Federal Network Agency

## **Oliver Wittke**

Oliver Wittke, Präsidiumsmitglied Bundesverband SchienenNahverkehr

Member of the Executive Committee of BSN

## **Kerstin Haarmann**

Kerstin Haarmann, Verkehrsclub Deutschland (VCD)

Verkehrsclub Deutschland (VCD)

## **Dr Matthias Feil**

Dr. Matthias Feil, Leiter Fahrplan und Kapazitätsmanagement DB InfraGO

Timetable, capacity management and network access DB InfraGO

## **Anja Bröker**

Company Spokesperson of Deutsche Bahn AG