



**The Union of European Railway Engineer Associations (UEEIV)**

is pleased to invite you to the

**RAILWAY FORUM 2024  
in Sofia, Bulgaria  
from 8-9 November 2024**

main topic:

**THE FUTURE OF RAILWAY INTEROPERABILITY:  
25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES**

with the support of



NATIONAL GUILD – SOCIETY OF RAILWAY TRACK ENGINEERS (NGSRTE)



SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL UNION OF TRANSPORT (WTVV)



FEDERATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL UNIONS IN BULGARIA (FSTU)

BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING COMPANIES ON RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION (BACCRC)



SE NATIONAL RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY (SE NRIC)

HOLDING BDZ INC. (BDZ)



under the auspices of the

Minister of Transport and Communications

**Venue:**

“Asen Zlatarev” hall 4 , Federation of Scientific and Technical Unions (FSTU)  
108 Georgi Rakovski Str., Sofia, Bulgaria

*Languages: English and Bulgarian with translation*

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

## FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER, "ASEN ZLATAREV" HALL 4

09.00 - 10.00 Registration

### 09.30 – 09.40 OPENING CEREMONY

**Dipl.-Ing. Olaf Scholtz-Knobloch** – UEEIV President  
**Dipl. Eng. Antoaneta Georgieva** – NGS RTE Chairman  
**Dipl. Eng. Yasen Ishev** – STUT Chairman

### 09.40 – 10.00 WELCOMING

**Georgi Gvozdeikov** - Minister of Transport and Communications  
**Dipl. Eng. Olaf Scholtz-Knobloch** – UEEIV President  
**Dipl. Eng. Prof. Ivan Iachev** - FSTUB Chairman

### 10.00 – 12:00 FIRST SESSION

*Moderators:* *Dipl.-Ing. Olaf Scholtz-Knobloch, UEEIV (D)*  
*Dipl. Eng. Yasen Ishev, WTVV (BG)*

10:00 – 10:20 **TSI from ERA's perspective**  
Desislava DIMITROVA  
ERA Research Coordinator (F)

10.20 – 10:50 **Railway interoperability – from the past to the present**  
Dipl.-Ing. Rudolf KOLLER  
Company (A)

10.50 – 11.20 **Railway infrastructure projects – 2030 horizon**  
Dipl. Eng. Maria Genova  
SE NRIC Director general (BG)

11.20 – 11:50 **Presentation Title tbc**  
Michael Walter  
ÖBB, Member of ERA working group (A)

11.50 – 12.00 **Q&A Session and podium discussion for sessions 1**

### 12.00 – 13.00 LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING

### 13.00 - 15.10 SECOND SESSION

*Moderators:* *Ass. Prof. Dr. Eng Mario Galabov, UEEIV (BG)*  
*Dipl. Eng. Antoaneta Georgieva, NGS RTE (BG)*

13.00 – 13.30 **Modernization and restructuring strategy of Holding BDZ as the national railway operator**  
Dipl. Eng. Georgi Drumev  
HOLDING BDZ INC Managing Director (BG)

13.30 – 14.00 **Strategy for the Introduction of TSI in the Bulgarian Railway System**  
Mr. Lyuben Nanov  
Director of Executive Agency Railway Administration (BG)

- 14.00 – 14.30 **Railway interoperability - problems, solutions development**  
Gergana Karaalanova  
General Manager, TINSA (BG)
- 14.30 – 15.00 **New role, new reality**  
**How the increasing digitalization (Virtual Reality) asks for new roles and rules**  
Markus Bolli  
Suprexa AG (CH)
- 15.00 – 15.10 **Q&A Session and podium discussion for session 2**
- 15.10 – 15.40 COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING**
- 15:40 - 17.50 THIRD SESSION**
- Moderators:* *Dr. Dipl. Eng. Bernhard Knoll, UEEIV (A)*  
*Dipl. Eng. Ivo Yanakiev, NGS RTE (BG)*
- 15.40 – 16.10 **Exchange of best practices as catalyst for interoperability**  
Dipl. Eng. Marco Corradini  
Specialist in Control and Coordination, SBB (CH)
- 16.10 – 16.40 **Presentation title tbc**  
Prof.hc, Prof. Georg Brügger  
Consultant (CH)
- 16.40 - 17.10 **From the first application to a new technological strategy in Italy driven by ERTMS**  
Ing. Fabio Senesi, R&D Head, RFI
- 17.10 – 17.40 **Maximum track availability despite cost optimization**  
Prof. Dr. techn. MSc. Ferdinand Pospischil, Getzner Werkstoffe GmbH (A)  
Dipl. Eng. Andreas Wenz, Railway Infrastructure Design Institut – Graz (A)
- 17.40 – 17.50 **Q&A Session and podium discussion for sessions 3**
- 19.30 NETWORKING DINNER**

Restaurant “Central”, Sofia, 5 Pirotska Str.

## **SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER**

- 09.30 – 12.00 **Technical excursion: Modernization of railway section Elin Pelin-Kostenetz**
- 12.00 – 13.00 **Lunch**
- 13.00 – 14.00 **Travel back to Sofia**

