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Press Release

RAIL TOWARDS 2050: Vision and Road Map for sustainable mobility. The FP7 Projects SPIDER PLUS, LIVING RAIL Joint Final Conference.

Brussels, April 23rd 2015 - The SPIDER PLUS and LIVING RAIL projects co-financed by the European Commission under the FP7 Program, had their Final Conference in Brussels at the Bibliothèque Solvay on April 23rd 2015. More than 100 delegates from all over Europe registered to the event and received the Collaborative Brochure containing a brief outline of both projects. Although the projects started from different stand points they arrived at common conclusions which must be considered an achievement given the different background and companies participating to the two consortiums.

Both projects presented their Vision of a sustainable mobility for passengers and freight together with the respective Road Maps for implementing it from now to 2050. The conference was opened by Michael Cramer MEP chairman of the Committee for Transport and Tourism and by Gerhard Troche of DG MOVE setting the challenges for the mobility needs of an evolving European Society.

After the detailed presentation of the two projects made by Franco Castagnetti, together with Lars Deiterding, respectively SPIDER PLUS leader and coordinator, and Claus Doll LivingRAIL leader and coordinator, a public debate took place through a very lively and constructive panel discussion where the audience was given ample time to intervene on many critical issues of European relevance.

The panel moderated by Werner Rothengatter eminent Professor of KIT included Michael Cramer MEP, Christopher Irwin of the European Passengers' Federation, Libor Lochman of CER, Anna Gigantino of ERA, Akos Ersek of UIRR and Marc Ivaldi of Toulouse University.

After a very interesting debate, the conclusive remarks were made by Ludger Rogge of DG RDT, the European Project Officer for the two projects. Further information are available on the websites www.spiderplus-project.eu; www.livingrail.eu;

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