



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF MUSEUM & TOURIST RAILWAYS

Fédération Européenne des Chemins de Fer Touristiques et Historiques
Europäische Föderation der Museums- und Touristikbahnen

Agenda Saint Quentin 1-3 nov

Thursday early arriving

17:00 Possibility to join for Musée des métiers d'antan, 90 minutes English guiding

19:30 Dinner at La Maison

Menu : Apéritif Champagne, Souris d'agneau, Poêlée de mirabelles, verre de vin

Friday

11:00 Welcome and Meet and Greet Apertif Lunch
Mayor and officials Welcome

13:00 - 15:00 Working Groups (separate meetings)

Tramway Group (TG)

Heritage Operating Group (HOG)

World Industrial Mobile Heritage and Environment (WIMH)

Possible to attend online if wanted.

15:30 Transport to Chemin de Fer Touristique du Vermandois (60 min visit to the shed/90 min ride with local beer and cheese tasting).

19:30 Dinner at L'Univers

Menu: Apéritif Kir, Ficelle picarde gratinée à l'emmental, Suprême de poulet au Maroilles / frites, Brioche perdue, sauce caramel beurre salé, Vin & café

Saturday

08:45 Opening Speech

09:00 Meeting Start

Agenda:

- What happened 2024! Short summary for the Annual Plan with a short economical report for the past year.
- Annual Plan 2025, what is in the plan and what do our members think we shall work on for there best benefit.
- Budget 2025
- Constitution overview, we see a need to change the constitution, we will present out thoughts and need the member feedback. How can we get this to benefit all!
- AGM 2025 Isle of Man 8-12 May what to expect.
- Short summary from the working groups and are we covering all the issues for our member.



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- Youth Initiative from Fedecrail
- Funding from EU how do it work and how do we go forward with this.
- East Europe, Working together with NERHT for more members from the Heritage Tramways and Railways
- Any Other Business

12:00 Lunch Buffet de la Gare

Possibility to visit the Mechanical enlisted signal box at Saint Quentin Station, 10 people at time.

14:30 Members Biggest Challenges, Action Plan and Workshops.
In Frankfurt 2023 we opened for this the first time, to get a dialogue between members and Fedecrail. This meeting we listed the 5 biggest challenges our member recognised. We have several actions on these challenges but is there any other thoughts and do target the right things?

- **Visitors**
 - Heritage railways and tramways rely heavily on visitors for their sustainability. To ensure long-term success, it's essential to create experiences that not only attract new visitors but also encourage them to return. By continuously evolving and offering fresh, engaging experiences, we can grow visitor numbers and build lasting connections. Creating a desire to return is key to maintaining rising visitor numbers and ensuring that these historical treasures remain vibrant and accessible for future generations.
- **Funding**
 - One of the key challenges in securing funding for heritage rail and tramway projects is navigating complex European funding programs and obtaining support from competent authorities. Non-profit organizations promoting cultural and rail transport heritage often struggle to access these funds due to stringent application requirements and competition for limited resources. Effective fundraising is essential to ensure the preservation and valorization of these cultural assets, but the process can be time-consuming and requires significant expertise to align projects with funding criteria and secure necessary financial support.

- **Volunteers**

- Maintaining and protecting the heritage of railways and tramways is essential, especially as they represent a vital part of our movable cultural heritage. To safeguard this, we must prioritize legal protection and ensure that these systems are preserved for future generations.

One of the key challenges is volunteer recruitment and retention. Ensuring a steady number of well-trained and committed volunteers is crucial. It requires professional training beyond rail-specific skills, focusing on health and safety, and providing younger members with the right skills and behaviors. Attracting and integrating young people through apprenticeships, training programs, and youth camps is essential for the sustainability of heritage rail operations.

By passing on skills and knowledge, we can secure a future where volunteers are not only sufficient in numbers but also well-prepared for the demands of maintaining and operating these valuable cultural assets. This approach helps in creating a sustainable, thriving environment for railway heritage and ensures that both tramways and railways remain part of our living history.

- **Regulations**

- The development of new infrastructure poses challenges for accommodating trams and historic trains. Stricter EU regulations, such as ECM certification and ERTMS, demand adaptations that can be difficult for older rolling stock. Efforts to develop unified technical standards are underway, considering the specific needs of heritage trains. However, new technologies, like modern radio systems, create further obstacles. The continuous update of EU laws adds complexity, requiring careful adaptation to preserve heritage railways while ensuring safety and compliance.

- **Sustainability**

- Heritage railways and tramways, powered by diesel, steam, gasoline, and electricity, face increasing challenges due to fuel shortages, rising costs, and stricter environmental regulations. The availability and cost of fossil fuels like coal, along with the rising demand and price of electricity, create further complications. Adapting to ****sustainability demands**** and complying with the ****EU Green Deal****



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while balancing heritage preservation and environmental concerns is becoming more difficult, especially as energy prices and restrictions continue to increase.

We also know that owning and maintaining infrastructure, in addition to heritage vehicles, presents further challenges for heritage railways and tramways. Small operators often face difficulties sourcing materials not only for vehicle restoration but also for maintaining tracks, signaling, and stations. As smaller buyers, they may struggle to secure bulk orders for essential components, leading to delays and higher costs. These challenges are compounded by the aging infrastructure, where specific parts may no longer be manufactured. This adds complexity to the preservation and safe operation of both the vehicles and the supporting infrastructure, making the long-term sustainability of these systems more difficult.

Presentations on the afternoon

- Saint Quentin Tramway Saga
- Insurance issues in heritage Railway activities
- Tourism how can we get the visitors to come back?
- Challenges in Heritage
- Mainlisting of Main station
- Parc Asterix

20:00 Dinner L'édito

Menu: Apéritif Kir, Flamiche aux poireaux, Carbonade flamande, Crème brûlée, Vin

Sunday for those that want.

09:00 Open doors visit to the heritage railway in Denain, a city near by with trams as well.