



*The Railway Forum*

## ***Press Release***

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## **'INDUSTRY WELCOMES POSITIVE COMMITMENTS, ' SAYS FORUM**

The Railway Forum broadly welcomes the proposals outlined by Alistair Darling PC MP, Secretary of State for Transport, in his statement this afternoon.

The review of regulation is particularly welcome. The industry is evolving very quickly and regulation must keep pace. Any initiatives that clarify and simplify the present structure must be of benefit to the industry as well as its customers and stakeholders.

We are also pleased that any organisational review will listen carefully to the industry. The industry must play a key role if business confidence is to be maintained and a successful outcome achieved. It will also ensure that reducing cost and improving performance remain the core industry priorities.

Finally, recognition of the need to sustain both investment and investor confidence is further reassurance that the Government sees the industry as having a bright future.

'The Secretary of State's announcement today is a series of bold proposals,' says Adrian Lyons, Director General of The Railway Forum. 'If implemented in the right way they will clarify and simplify the way the industry works and contribute to our key priorities: reducing cost and improving performance. The commitment to involve the industry fully in this process is particularly welcome'.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Railway Forum is an industry-wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies including Eurostar, as well as Network Rail, all three major rolling stock leasing companies, the Passenger Transport Executives, London Underground, most of the infrastructure maintenance companies and many manufacturing and other businesses serving the UK rail industry. In all we have some 70 members. Our key role is to act as a think tank, information exchange and point of contact for those committed to and interested in our industry.
2. The Secretary of State for Transport's announcement can be found at: [http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft\\_about/documents/page/dft\\_about\\_026852.hcsp](http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_about/documents/page/dft_about_026852.hcsp)

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