COLPORER

COLLABORATION OF RAILWAY POLICE AND SECURITY SERVICES

2024

ANNUAL REPORT









Our Mission	3
Crises and Risk	5
45 years of COLPOFER	7
77th General Assembly	8
78th General Assembly	9
1st Symposium	10
Elections	11
IMPRESS	20
LandSec - RailSec	21
IWGLTS	22
COLPOFER Team	23

In the 2024 COLPOFER annual report you will find a summary of what was done as well as everything related to COLPOFER's involvement in international projects, Working Groups, annual meetings and activities.



OUR MISSION

COLPOFER, established in 1980, is now a specialized group within the International Union of Railways (UIC) that focuses on enhancing the security and safety of the European railway network. Comprising 28 members from 22 countries, COLPOFER brings together railway police forces and security organizations from various railway companies to collaborate in addressing the growing challenges of criminal activity within the railway system. Its primary mission is to safeguard people, premises, trains, and sensitive information, ensuring a secure and reliable transportation environment for all. Through strong cooperation, COLPOFER facilitates the sharing of expertise, best practices, and intelligence among its members, enabling them to effectively combat crimes such as theft, vandalism, terrorism, and human trafficking.

In addition to **operational collaboration**, COLPOFER is **instrumental** in the **development** and **implementation** of **security guidelines**, which serve to improve safety standards across the region. These guidelines are designed to foster uniformity in security protocols and enhance the overall public perception of safety within the railway sector. As a proactive force for change, COLPOFER works relentlessly to bolster the resilience of the European railway system, strengthening its ability to respond to evolving threats and ensuring the continued safety of passengers, staff, and assets.

COLPOFER OBJECTIVES

Exchanging information and best practices in the fight against criminality in the railway environment

Defining a common railway security strategy and guidelines for security solutions

Providing recommendations aimed at enhancing security levels and the perception of security

Fostering Public-Private partnerships to reach extensive and global goals

COLPOFER MEMBERS

(As of 20/01/2025)

Austria: ÖBB	Luxembourg: CFL
Belgium: SNCB	Netherlands: NS N.V Eurail
Croatia: HZ Infrastruktura	Poland: PKP-PLK S.A.
Czech Republic: České Dráhy	Portugal: CP
Denmark: DSB	Romania: AFER - CFR Calatori - AGIFER
Finland: FTIA	Serbia: IŽS
France: SNCF - Gendarmerie Nationale	Slovenia: SŽ
Germany: Deutsche Bahn	Spain: Renfe Operadora
Hungary: MAV-Start	Sweden: Trafikverket (Authority)
Italy: FS - SNCF SVI - Polizia Ferroviaria	Switzerland: SBB
Latvia: LDZ SJSC	United Kingdom: EUROSTAR Ltd

A Warm Welcome to Deutsche Bahn

A special welcome was reserved to Mr. Patrick Hennies, Chief Security Officer at DB, after being unanimously admitted as a highly appreciated member in COLPOFER. Deutsche Bahn, in the very heart of Europe, has been representing an important part of our European railway system and is now a valuable partner in COLPOFER.



RDG

2024 IN A NUTSHELL: SECURITY EVENTS

In 2024, Europe experienced a sharp rise in sabotage and terror attacks, particularly targeting rail networks and public spaces. These incidents underscored the vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure, prompting enhanced security responses across the continent.

In **France**, sabotage attempts aimed at disrupting rail services were notably linked to growing political tensions. On July 29, 2024, French authorities suggested that farleft extremists might have been involved in sabotage actions targeting the rail network, following multiple disruptions across the country (Reuters, 2024). These efforts to damage signaling systems and halt train services were part of a broader pattern of disruptions in France. On August 3, 2024, further attacks forced temporary suspensions of German train services, with investigators suggesting that similar groups were involved (Euronews, 2024). The sabotage, using sophisticated methods such as remote-controlled devices, paralyzed critical parts of the rail network.

In **Germany**, the rail system also faced multiple disruptions throughout the year. On May 5, 2024, a major incident in North Rhine-Westphalia led to delays after unknown assailants targeted signaling systems (The Gaze, 2024). This followed an escalation in sabotage incidents, including a severe disruption in August 2024, when authorities imposed service restrictions due to suspected sabotage (Euronews, 2024). On December 19, 2024, a deadly attack at a Christmas market in Berlin killed several people and injured dozens more, raising further concerns about the safety of transportation hubs during public events (Euronews, 2024). Additionally, reports emerged suggesting foreign actors, including Russia, were involved in attempting to disrupt European rail systems. Czech officials accused Russia of orchestrating sabotage efforts to destabilize transport networks across Europe (Brussels Signal, 2024). This geopolitical dimension added complexity to the ongoing security concerns.

In Vienna, **Austria**, a potential terror plot was foiled in August 2024 when authorities intercepted plans to target a major train station. The plot, allegedly linked to far-right extremists, aimed to disrupt transit and create widespread panic during high-traffic periods (CNN, 2024). The foiled attack further highlighted the risk of terror activities targeting Europe's rail infrastructure and public spaces.

These events reflected a broader trend of rising **sabotage** and **terrorism-related incidents** across Europe in 2024, underscoring the vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure and the increasing complexity of security challenges in the region.



2024 IN A NUTSHELL: MAJOR EVENTS

In 2024, the European railway security sector faced significant developments and challenges, marked by increased collaboration and emerging threats.

A significant security concern in 2024 was the sabotage attempts on railway infrastructure during the **Summer Olympics** and **Paralympic** Games in Paris. The global attention on the Olympics made it a prime target for disruptions, with several incidents aimed at sabotaging transportation networks. While these attempts were limited, they highlighted the vulnerability of critical infrastructure during high-profile events. Railway security teams, in close collaboration with law enforcement, were on high alert and implemented rapid and innovative countermeasures to ensure the safety and continuity of services.

In addition to the **Olympic** games, two other major events in 2024 posed security challenges: the **European** Soccer **Championships** and the start of the **Jubilee year** in Rome. Both events attracted large crowds and heightened security concerns, with the potential for large-scale disruptions affecting public transportation. Security forces worked diligently to mitigate risks through **enhanced monitoring** and **coordination**, ensuring smooth operations across the national rail networks. The overall heightened terrorism alert level in 2024 added another layer of complexity to security operations. The increased threat of terrorist activities across Europe led to stricter security measures, particularly around major public events. Railways faced additional pressure to secure stations, trains, and critical infrastructure.

Alongside these physical security threats, cybersecurity remained a top priority in 2024. As railways continued to rely heavily on digital systems, from train control to ticketing, cybersecurity measureses have become increasingly vital to protect against potential cyber threats.

Overall, 2024 marked a year of **heightened collaboration**, **strategic leadership changes**, and a **continued commitment** to securing European railways. The sector's response to both physical threats, like the Olympic sabotage attempts, and growing digital risks illustrates its proactive approach to safeguarding transportation infrastructure across Europe.

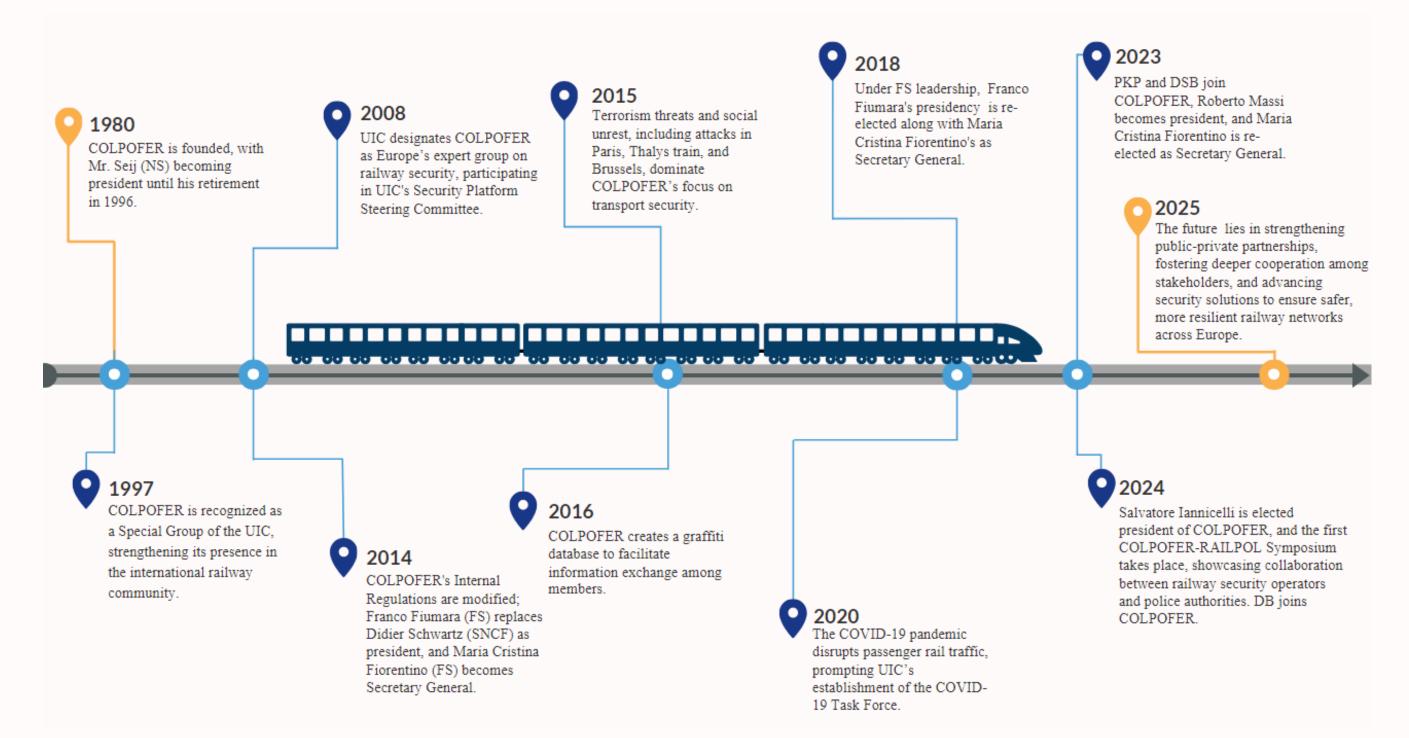


45 Years Strong:

COLPOFER's Commitment to Railway Security Excellence

This coming year, COLPOFER will proudly celebrate its **45th anniversary**, marking almost five decades of dedicated service to the railway security community. Since its inception, COLPOFER has been at the forefront of promoting safety and security across European railways, fostering collaboration among industry professionals, and providing a platform for sharing best practices and expertise.

Over the years, COLPOFER has evolved to meet the ever-changing challenges of the railway sector, adapting to new technologies, emerging threats, and evolving regulatory frameworks. The organization has played a pivotal role in strengthening international cooperation, supporting the development of security standards, and driving innovative solutions for securing critical railway infrastructure.



This anniversary is not only a moment to reflect on the achievements and milestones but also an opportunity to look ahead to the future. With the **unwavering commitment** of its members, COLPOFER will continue to promote the **highest standards** of railway security, advocate for a resilient and sustainable transport network, and support the global harmonization of security practices.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we **thank all past and present members**, partners, and stakeholders for their invaluable contributions. Here's to many more years of collaboration, progress, and success in the railway security field.



77th COLPOFER General Assembly

The 77th COLPOFER General Assembly, held in **Riga** in May, provided a valuable opportunity for members to gather in person and engage in meaningful discussions on security topics. Special thanks were extended to Ms. Silvija Dreimane, Mr. Andris Čevers, and their team at LDz for their excellent organization.

A key focus of the Assembly was the launch of a contest to create a **new strategic vision** for COLPOFER, including a name change to better represent the association's future direction. Chairman Massi proposed "RAILSEC" as a potential name, encouraging members to submit further suggestions by June 28th.

Collaboration with UIC was also **emphasized** to **strengthen ties** and enhance cooperation. Additionally, some structural changes were announced: the COLPOFER Working Group on New Technologies was cancelled to avoid overlap with UIC's initiatives, while the WG on Corridor X was temporarily suspended due to participant difficulties.

The General Assembly also approved **amendments** to COLPOFER's **Internal Rules**, including the cancellation of a membership exclusion clause and the adoption of **English** as the sole working language, with provisions for other languages in specific Working Groups. These changes are aimed at improving participation and streamlining operations within the association.

These updates reflect COLPOFER's ongoing commitment to strengthening its role as a leading voice in European railway security.





78th COLPOFER General Assembly

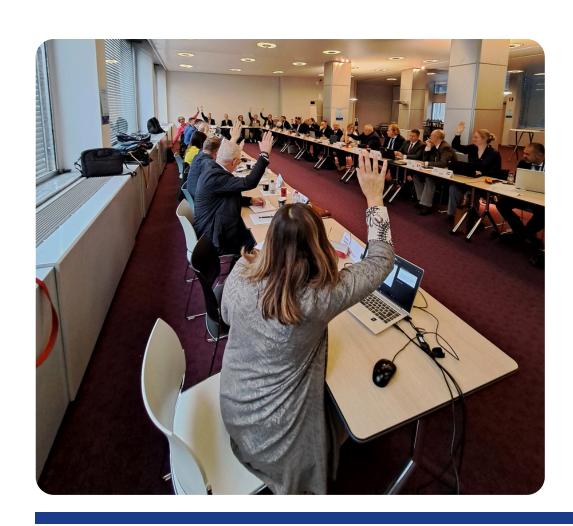
At the 78th COLPOFER General Assembly held in Brussels & London on 22 -24th of October, President Massi opened the meeting by thanking the Belgian and EUROSTAR teams for their efforts in organizing the event. With 37 representatives from 15 organizations and 12 countries, Massi announced his resignation as COLPOFER President due to changes within FS. Mr. Salvatore Iannicelli, the new Chief Security Officer of Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, was nominated to succeed Massi and was unanimously elected as the new President.

The General Secretariat, led by Maria Cristina Fiorentino, then presented the 2025 COLPOFER working plan, which includes projects on ticket fraud, the RAILPOL-COLPOFER Symposium, EU security initiatives, and a focus on critical infrastructure. The plan also outlines cooperation with UITP, activities around major events, and two more upcoming General Assemblies.

The assembly also admitted DB as a new member and discussed the financial report and budget for 2025, which were approved.

Lastly, SNCF shared its experience and security strategies during the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, highlighting successful crisis management, innovative security practices, and lessons learned from the event, especially regarding risk management and infrastructure protection.

The newly elected President, Mr. Iannicelli, committed to advancing COLPOFER's goals and building upon the roadmap set by former Chairman Massi. Iannicelli emphasized the importance of resilience in critical entities and the need for EU Member States to ensure uninterrupted services. He also highlighted new strategic areas within UIC, including Digital Twins, FRMCS, Ticketing, and Standardization







COLPOFER values international cooperation as a cornerstone of its mission to enhance the safety and security of Europe's rail networks. In line with this commitment, the inaugural COLPOFER - RAILPOL 2024 Symposium in Brussels on the 24th October marked a significant milestone in fostering collaboration between European law enforcement agencies, railway operators, and security professionals. The event brought together a diverse group of experts to address pressing challenges in railway security, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to emerging threats. The symposium was honored to host the Executive Director of Europol Ms. Catherine De Bolle and other high-ranking officials from the Europea Commission, further elevating the significance of the event.

The symposium proved to be a resounding success, facilitating productive discussions on topics such as police interventions after rail accidents, the terrorist threat evaluation throughout Europe, and crisis organization: how to deal with events which affect railway enterprise activities. It also served as a valuable platform for building stronger relationships and networks, contributing to a more unified approach to railway safety. Positive feedback from participants underscored the importance of continued dialogue and coordination among stakeholders.

Due to the success of the first edition, preparations for the second COLPOFER -RAILPOL Symposium, scheduled for 2025, are already underway. Participants and stakeholders are encouraged to stay tuned for more information as plans for the 2025 edition develop. The second symposium promises to be an even more impactful event, advancing COLPOFER's mission to ensure secure, efficient, and resilient rail systems across Europe.





On 23rd of October 2024, during the 78th COLPOFER General Assembly in Brussels, Mr. Salvatore Iannicelli, Chief Security Officer at FS SpA, was elected Chairman of COLPOFER. Drawing from his extensive experience having commanded the 1st Operational Unit at Fiumicino Airport and led corporate protection at TERNA SpA, emphasized the importance of continued collaboration for enhancing security across the transport sector.

Here are his words in the heat of the moment:

«I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of the COLPOFER Board for the support and trust. I feel honoured for having been assigned a leading role in this Association which I'll strive towards progress and innovation in its strategic areas within the railway security domain. I'm committed to continue the roadmap outlined by my predecessor and I strongly believe that together, with the strong support and commitment of the UIC, we can drive our common vision of a global railway security harmonization in a highly sensitive geopolitical landscape and achieve all the goals set in our yearly work programme, in the context of the engagements set out on the UIC roadmap to develop a safe, efficient and sustainable global railway system»

Ms. Maria Cristina Fiorentino, Head of Security Cooperation & Crisis Management at FS SpA, continues to lead with distinction in her third mandate as COLPOFER Secretary General. Her leadership is vital in strengthening international railway security cooperation and crisis management strategies, ensuring safer and more resilient networks across Europe.



The Vice-Presidency and Board are central to the organization, providing guidance, and decision-making to ensure the continued advancement of railway security across Europe. Their leadership is key to shaping policies and fostering collaboration among members, ensuring that COLPOFER remains at the forefront of addressing the evolving security challenges within the railway sector.



Head Security and Stakeholders Management EUROSTAR

Hendrik Vanderkimpen



Security Director NS

Frank Reitsma



Executive Director SUGE SNCF

Christophe Bouteille



Director of Safety Department -PKP SA

Włodzimierz Kiełczyński

Working Groups: Enhancing Railway Security Across Europe

COLPOFER's working groups are instrumental in advancing railway security across Europe. Each group focuses on a specific area of concern, ensuring effective collaboration, knowledge sharing, and development of best practices to tackle emerging security challenges.

The **Major Events Working** Group coordinates communication between members during major international events, improving security measures and ensuring timely information exchange. The Control Room Sub Working Group enhances communication between security control rooms of European railway companies, enabling coordinated responses to incidents.

The **Terrorist and Extremist Activities** Working Group focuses on comparing prevention and protection measures against terrorism, establishing common modes of action to strengthen responses to terrorist threats. Similarly, the **Graffiti** Working Group works on sharing best practices to reduce graffiti-related damage to rail infrastructure and ensure network protection.



The **Fraud/Ticket Forgery** Working Group works on identifying and preventing fraud, especially ticket forgery, to protect both operators and passengers.

The **Pan-European Corridor X** cell tackles security issues along key European transport routes, ensuring safe and efficient operations on critical freight corridors. Meanwhile, the **Cyber Crime** cell focuses on cybersecurity, sharing information on emerging risks and developing data protection strategies to safeguard digital infrastructure.

Through these collaborative efforts, COLPOFER fosters a proactive and unified approach to securing Europe's rail networks, addressing a wide range of physical, digital, and operational challenges.

MAJOR EVENTS

CHAIR: Mr. Gaetan Carlens from SNCB

MEMBERS: SNCB, SNCF, FS Italiane, SNCF Voyages, and NS N.V.

OBJECTIVES:

- Real time Information sharing on railway transport requirements of Big Events at a national and international level.
- Creation of a Security plan for railway transport during Big Events.
- Operational communication between railway companies.
- Best practices exchange regarding Control Room management and technological instruments.

MEETINGS:

• WG, chaired by SNCB, was held on 25-26th of January in Paris from 14:00 to 19:00.

- Major exercise
 - Participation in a multidisciplinary exercise (SNCF lead) in Paris St. Lazare on 25th January 2024.
 - Integration of a communication test between PCNS SNCF and Railway Coordination Center Colpofer (based in Brussels).
- Closer cooperation between WG «Terrorism » & WG "Control Room-Managing Events.
- Audit "Extra Schengen (Transmanche) procedures.



TERRORIST AND EXTERMIST ACTIVITES

CHAIR: Mr. Frank Reitsma From NS

MEMBERS: SNCB, FTA, SNCF, Gendarmerie Nationale, FS Italiane, SNCF Voyages, LDZ SJSC, NS N.V., PKP, CP, RENFE Operadora, Trafikverket, EUROSTAR, and Railpol.

OBJECTIVES:

- Organisation of security procedures targeted to railway companies (eg. harmonisation of procedures concerning cross-border security threats).
- Cooperation with Police and other partners.
- Sharing of best practices and case studies.

MEETINGS:

• WG, chaired by NS, was held on 22nd of May in Utrecht from 9:00 to 18:00.

- Information exchange on past events.
- Prevention of sabotage against the railway network.
- Planning of joint exercises.
- Assessment of recent threats events across Europe (suspicious objects, bomb threats and suspect behavior).
- Assessing the state of national threat level across Europe.
- Assessment of New technologies (e.g. assessing portable X-ray solutions for processing unattended luggage).
- Assessment of insider threats.



GRAFFITI

CHAIR: Mr. Frank Reitsma From NS MEMBERS: SNCB, SNCF, FS Italiane, NS N.V., PKP, Renfe Operadora, and SBB

OBJECTIVES:

- Exchange of information regarding "International Graffiti" within COLPOFER members (graffiti done by a foreign crew in another country).
- Best practices sharing for the graffiti prevention and fight against graffiti.
- Cooperation with the Police, other institutional partners and Law Enforcement Authorities.

MEETINGS:

• WG, chaired by NS, was held on 16th May from 9:00 to 17:30 kindly hosted by the Swiss Railways in Olten- Switzerland.

- Advocating that Graffiti is a security concern (access restricted areas, trespassing, aggression against staff, infiltration of criminality including sabotage and terrorism, sense of insecurity amongst passengers) besides being an economic and operational one.
- Strengthen exchanges and collaboration amongst affected stakeholders.
- Reduction of public visibility through a prompt removal of graffiti is a key deterrent.
- Caught-in-the-act cases are, in several countries, extremely rare.
- Data collection and database creation.



CYBER CRIME CELL

CHAIR: Mr. Pawel Rospond of PKP MEMBERS: NCF, FS Italiane, SNCF Voyages, LDZ SJSC, PKP, and AFER

OBJECTIVES:

- Participation in the UIC CISO WG.
- Reporting of results and recommendations to the COLPOFER General Assembly.
- Information exchange between IT Security depts. in railway companies.
- Scouting IT security solutions.

MEETINGS:

• WG, chaired by PKP, was held on 25-26th of January in Warsaw.





PAN-EUROPEAN CORRIDOR X

CHAIR: Mrs. Dora Mezek-Kukec from SŽ

MEMBERS: ÖBB, ZRS, Hzi HZ Infrastruktura, and SŽ Slovenske železnice.

OBJECTIVES:

- Analysis of the security threats in the Pan-European Corridor X Railways.
- Data and information exchange.
- Best practices exchange.
- Legislation analysis in the security sector in order to attempt to influence legal standards for the harmonisation in Colpofer member countries.

MEETINGS:

• WG, Chaired by SŽ was held on 22nd of May from 9:00 to 13:00 Online.

- Holding of bilateral meetings with members and organizations on the Pan-European X corridor.
- Monitoring and reporting of illegal migrants routes.
- Monitoring and reporting the increase in the level of the terrorist threat is also connected with the worsening of the situation in the Gaza Strip.

FRAUD AND TICKET FORGERY

CHAIR: Mrs. Carla Zaffiro from FS Security

MEMBERS: ÖBB, SNCB, ČD České dráhy, DSB, SNCF, MAV-Start, FS Italiane, SNCF Voyages, NS N.V., Eurail Group G.I.E., PKP, ŽSR, SŽ, SBB, EUROSTAR International Limited, and the Rail Delivery Group (RDG)

OBJECTIVES:

- Real-time information exchange and best practice sharing on ticket forgeries and credit card frauds.
- Creating alerts and training materials (in cooperation with EURAIL Group, CIT,etc.).
- Promoting online and on-the-job staff training TICKET INSPECTORS PROJECT
 scheduled in summer 2025.

MEETINGS:

WG, chaired by FS Security, was held on 13-14th of November in Bern.

- Introduction of "Pay-As-You-Go" (DSB App is under development coming in 2024). Similar solutions already exist (e.g. SBB Fairtiq app; TRENITALIA emv only Roma Termini Fiumicino Airport).
- Implementation of control gates in major stations.
- Evaluation of the control process efficiency by using electronic devices.
- Advocating for modifying regulation.















COLPOFER EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

COLPOFER **endorses partnership** agreements and **joint projects** with European institutions, other pertinent security associations and international stakeholders such as:

- UIC
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 - LANDSEC
 - Working Party on Rail Security
- International Working Group on Land Transport Security
- RAILPOL
- UITP
- CER
- EUROPOL

LANDSEC - RAILSEC

COLPOFER, an association registered under the Transparency regime of the European Commission, actively participates in various EU working groups to represent the interests of its members. In 2022, COLPOFER contributed to the discussions and developments at both the RAIL Security Working Party and LANDSEC meetings. Below is an overview of COLPOFER's participation in these key meetings:

RAIL Security Working Party

Meeting Dates: [Insert dates]
Location: [Insert location]

Key Discussions & Outcomes: [Insert details]

LANDSEC Meetings

Meeting Dates: [Insert dates]
Location: [Insert location]

Key Discussions & Outcomes: [Insert details]





International Working Group on Land Transport Security

(IWGLTS)

The 17th session of the International Working Group on Land Transport Security (IWGLTS) 2024 focused on key issues regarding the future of transportation security. The discussions centered around the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing land transport security, the importance of ensuring security resilience during natural disasters, and the effective implementation of security guidelines. This session aimed to explore innovative solutions and strategies that could strengthen the security and operational continuity of transportation systems, particularly in the face of emerging challenges such as climate change and technological advancements.

The 17th IWGLTS session was hosted by the Italian Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport (MIT), providing a crucial platform for international collaboration on transportation security. Experts, stakeholders, and representatives from various countries gathered to share knowledge, discuss best practices, and address the most pressing security concerns facing the sector.

COLPOFER played an integral role in the session by contributing its expertise in national emergency planning. Ms. Maria Cristina Fiorentino represented COLPOFER, providing valuable insights on the National Emergency Planning for volcanic risk in the Napolitan area, with a particular focus on the railway transport plan. This contribution was especially relevant, as it highlighted the importance of well-prepared, integrated systems for managing natural disaster risks in the transport sector. COLPOFER's participation demonstrated its commitment to advancing the resilience and safety of European rail networks, particularly in regions exposed to significant natural hazards.

Through its active engagement in the 17th IWGLTS session, COLPOFER reinforced its role as a key player in shaping the future of transport security, emphasizing the need for international cooperation, innovative approaches, and robust preparedness strategies.



The IMPRESS Project: Enhancing Railway Security through Awareness and Training





The IMPRESS project (IMProving Railway sEcurity through awareneSS and training (#) IMPRESS) is a European Union co-funded initiative aimed at improving the security of rail stations and trains. The project focuses on developing comprehensive security training and awareness programmes for all stakeholders working in and around railway environments. This includes rail staff, station shop employees, cleaning staff, and other third-party service providers who play a key role in maintaining safety and responding to security incidents.

COLPOFER plays an integral role in the IMPRESS project as a member of the Advisory Board, contributing 45 years of expertise and guidance to the development of the training frameworks and ensuring that the project's outcomes align with the broader goals of railway security across Europe. The project is coordinated by the UIC Security Division, which works alongside COLPOFER and other stakeholders to create an integrated approach to railway safety.

A core objective of the IMPRESS project is to ensure the sustainability of these training and awareness programmes by reaching out to the 'immediate responders' in the railway environment. These are the individuals most likely to be the first to react to or prevent a security incident when it arises in stations or on trains. By equipping these front-line personnel with the necessary knowledge and skills, the project aims to enhance their ability to identify potential threats and respond effectively, thereby improving overall railway security.



The IMPRESS project is co-funded by the European Union, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving railway security across member states. Through the IMPRESS project, COLPOFER continues to contribute to the safety and resilience of Europe's railways, empowering key stakeholders with the tools and knowledge needed to address security challenges effectively.



THE TEAM



Secretary General

Maria Cristina Fiorentino



Paola Fasano



Group Security FS Paolo Cavaliere



Alessandro Dell'Oro





