

Paola Firmi was born in Rieti on October 6, 1964. She graduated with honours earning a degree in civil transport engineering at the University "La Sapienza" of Rome where she also obtained a PhD in "Urban Planning and Environmental Planning of Transport Infrastructures".



In 1993 she joined the Ferrovie dello Stato Infrastructure Manager's technical services, dedicating herself to the definition of standards for the design, construction and maintenance of the railway infrastructure.

From 2003 to 2007 she was Head of the Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI) "Environment" business structure, then, from 2008 to 2016, of the "Civil and Experimental Infrastructure Standards" business structure.

Since 2016, she has assumed responsibility for RFI's Technical Department with the task of issuing standards for the safety of railway operations and technical standards for all civil and technological railway systems.

Since July 2022, she has been the head of RFI's Deputy Directorate General for Development and Standards, whose mission is to ensure the transformation of industrial processes in the corporate environment through the technological development and infrastructure resilience of the railway network, as well as the monitoring of reference standards for the maintenance of efficiency and the strengthening of infrastructure and for traffic management.

Over the years she has held various roles in national and international commissions including: commissions established by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport for the regulation of sub-services interfering with railway infrastructure, for the investigation of the costs of construction materials, for the updating and monitoring of technical standards for construction; council of the CEI (Italian Electrotechnical Committee); Strategic Direction Committee of the National Transport Technology Cluster Italy; Steering Board of the Rail System Forum and CTOs for Railway System Forum of the UIC; JNS (CER Key Contacts), within the CER Safety Sector.

She was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Blu Jet, controlled by RFI, and Board Member of FS Sistemi Urbani and FS Technology. She is President of Italferr and also President and CEO of the Tunnel Ferroviario del Brennero Company (TFB) and member of the Supervisory Board of the Brenner Base Tunnel - Brenner Basistunnel BBT SE.

Since 2021 she has been appointed Extraordinary Commissioner for the Upgrading of the Verona-Brenner railway line and the Val di Riga and PRG Bressanone variants.