



IARO 2026 AIR-RAIL CONFERENCE AND NETWORKING MEETING

Brussels Airport

Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 October 2026

Wednesday 7 October 2026:

- Visits to Brussels Airport Aviation Training Centre
- Introductory keynote presentations
- Tour of Airport – landside and airside
- Welcome to Brussels Networking Reception and Dinner

Thursday 8 October 2026:

- Morning & Afternoon Conference Sessions
- Concluding Networking Dinner

This event includes the closing dissemination event of the CEF-funded Intermodal Hub (IMH) project at Brussels Airport.



Co-funded by
the European Union

IARO 2026 AIR-RAIL CONFERENCE

The meeting will bring together IARO members and industry stakeholders for site visits, conference sessions, panel discussions and networking - focusing on the future of air-rail and intermodal transport.

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026

12:30 Arrival and registration at AHLEX, The Brussels Airport Aviation Training Centre

12:45 Light lunch

13:15 Welcome and introduction

Welcome, followed by an outline of the two-day programme.

13:30 AHLEX Training Centre visit

Introductory Keynote Presentations

The Airline Perspective on intermodal transport

Maaïke Andries - Corporate Development Manager, Brussels Airlines

The Rail Operator Perspective

Sebastian Rieckesmann - Business Manager Airline and Intermodal Cooperations, DB Fernverkehr

Tour of the facility, with an opportunity to view videos and presentations on Brussels Airport's activities and future plans, including the new Intermodal Hub development.

For further information on AHLEX, click on: <https://www.ahlex.eu/>

15:30 Airport visit

Landside and airside tour highlighting the future Intermodal Hub and the outcomes of the CEF-funded IMH study.

17:30 Networking Reception and Dinner (transfer with bus)

Informal "Welcome to Brussels" networking reception and dinner

Venue: to be confirmed (near the Airport)

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2026

Conference sessions will take place in Brussels Airport's Conference and Meeting Room.

The day will focus on the strategic issues and opportunities shaping the future of air-rail and intermodal transport, including high-speed rail connections to airports, integrated air-rail systems, new technology, funding and airport development.

Morning Programme

08:45 Arrival, Registration and coffee

Arrival at Brussels Airport Conference and Meeting Room.

09:00 Opening and Welcome by IARO and Brussels Airport

The Future of Airport Intermodality: Brussels Airport's Vision and the Results of the CEF-funded IMH Project

09:30 Session 1: Major airport connectivity and high-speed rail

Connectivity of major TEN-T airports by long-distance, including high-speed, rail

- Perspective on the evolution of the European Commission's TEN-T policy regarding the connection of major airports to long-distance, including high-speed, rail services.

Marcin Wójcik - Policy Officer

European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

Strengthening the connectivity of Brussels Airport with long-distance destinations

- Strengthening the connectivity of Brussels Airport with long-distance destinations while optimising capacity within the current constraints of both the airport rail network and the wider European rail system
- The role of infrastructure managers such as Infrabel and other stakeholders in supporting and shaping this transition.

Rudi Loontjens - CCO Infrabel

The Airline Perspective on TEN-T regulations

- Consumer and passenger rights
- Responsibilities of the airline and the rail operator

Maike Andries - Corporate Development Manager, Brussels Airlines

Air-rail and intermodal developments in Germany

Sebastian Rieckesmann - Business Manager Airline and Intermodal Cooperations, DB Fernverkehr

Panel Discussion and Q&A

Discussion on the policy, planning and delivery challenges for high-speed and long-distance rail access to major airports.

11:00 Refreshment break**11:30 Session 2: Airport development and design****Perspective on airport development and design for intermodal connectivity**

Antoinette Nassopoulos-Erickson - Senior Partner, Foster + Partners

Airport Development and Design as part of a Masterplan

Philip Autekie - Masterplanning and Design Management, Brussels Airport

Kuala Lumpur: update on in-town flight check-in and sustainability programme

Mme Noormah Mohd Noor - CEO, Kuala Lumpur Express Rail Link

Panel discussion and Q&A on Airport Development and Design – advantages and disadvantages of greenfield vs brownfield integration of rail infrastructure to airports

13:00 Lunch

14:15 Session 3: Integrating new technology and systems and managing disruptions**Results and lessons learned from TravelWise**

Micol Biscotto - Head of Grant Office, Deep Blue

Integrating new technologies, SESAR joint undertaking

Jérôme Delmeulle - Programme Manager, SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking

Integrated management in normal and disruptive mode through collaboration and technology

Korijn Defever - Managing Director, Airport Intelligence

How integrated air-rail intermodality is evolving from a niche concept into a strategic tool for network optimisation

- Evolution of integrated air-rail intermodality into a strategic tool for network optimisation.

Laetitia Beneteau - Accesrail

Panel discussion

Technology deployment, data sharing, disruption management and cross-industry collaboration. How airports, rail operators and distribution platforms can use air-rail integration to strengthen network performance and passenger choice.

15:45 Closing remarks and next steps

Summary of key points from the day and opportunities for future IARO collaboration.

16:00 End of Conference sessions

Refreshment and Networking

End of Conference Dinner – Brussels City

For members who are still in Brussels in the evening, the event will conclude with an informal end-of-conference dinner in the city centre

MEETING REGISTRATION AND HOTEL BOOKING

Participation in the Meeting is free-of-charge for IARO Members but participants should register in advance. To register, click here – [IARO 2026 MEETING](#)

There is a range of hotels at Brussels Airport and in Brussels city centre.

The closest hotel to the Airport Building is the Sheraton Brussels Airport. [VIEW THE HOTEL WEBSITE.](#)

