



# 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.](#)

