

# Euro allies join forces

Railfuture is a founder member of the European Passengers' Federation which was formally set up in Ghent in October.

Railfuture's former general secretary Trevor Garrod was named as the first chairman of the EPF with Marc Broeckkaert as vice chairman.

Peter Staelens of the Belgian passenger group BTTB will provide secretarial support.

The federation evolved out of increasing co-operation between similar organisations in eight European countries.

A general meeting to which individual members of each association are invited will be held in Namur on 22 March next year.

The inaugural meeting took place on 19 October in Brussels and agreed the statutes (or constitution) that establish the EPF as a non-profit-making body under Belgian law.

Its aim is "to function as a platform for all associations (non-profit or based on citizens' initiatives) which promote the interests of actual or potential public transport users and/or aspire to a quality rail system and other modes of public transport that are in accordance with a policy of sustainable development"

The new federation will not take over the work of existing associations. Instead, it will give an added dimension to their work by engaging in dialogue with international bodies such as the European Commission, the Community of European Railways and UIC; and international companies such as Eurostar and Thalys.

Already, Josef Schneider (Pro Bahn, Germany) and Rufus Barnes (London Transport Users' Committee) have represented their own organisations and the



Two stalwart rail campaigners died in August this year, Lionel Boylett and Charles Rowe.

Lionel, pictured above, played a key role in building up the Railway Development Society and Railfuture into a national organisation by taking on the duties of membership promotion officer for many years.

He also played a crucial part in 1978 in bringing together the Railway Invigoration Society and the Railway Development Association - he was a founder member of the RDA - and served on the national executive of the combined organisation, the Railway Development Society.

In his professional capacity, he was involved in the transport of London waste by rail to landfill sites in Bedfordshire.

He was also a member - since 1938 - and chairman of the Light Rail Transport League which is now the Light Rail Transport Association.

Lionel, who lived in north London died on 17 August, seven weeks short of his 90th birthday.

He leaves a wife Lita and two daughters, both Cambridge graduates.

Charles Rowe died on 5 August, aged 86. He was a pioneer member of the RDA and also served on the working party which brought the RIS and the RDA together. He was later on the national executive of the combined Railway Development Society.

Charles who lived in Orpington was an active member of the freight committee since 1985 until ill health forced him to resign recently.

He was also involved with the National Council for Inland Transport and was its treasurer for a time.

federation at a conference on rail passengers' rights in Berne, Switzerland. Subsequently, a six-page document on the rights of passengers on interna-

tional rail services was produced and sent to the EC.

Railfuture will be expected to submit its own comments to the

European Commission. Rufus Barnes of the London Transport Users Committee will be co-ordinating the EPF response.

A European Commission hearing is expected to take place on 15 November.

Britain's Rail Passengers Council and the LTUC are full members of EPF with the same rights as voluntary organisations.

The European Rail Passengers' Conference will be held on 18 October next year in Karlsruhe, Stuttgart or Paris.

Meanwhile, it is also working on plans for a weekend event in Antwerp, Belgium, in March, at which members of its constituent bodies will be welcome. Guest speakers and one or two visits of transport interest are also planned.

Antwerp is an historic city whose Central Station is undergoing major works as part of exciting plans to upgrade the Brussels - Amsterdam main line by 2006.

If you would like details of the Antwerp event, please send an SAE to Trevor Garrod, 15 Clapham Road, Lowestoft NR32 IRQ.

## Railfuture trip to Germany

Having organised visits to French destinations for the past two years, we are planning one to Germany in spring 2003.

The likely destination is Hannover, about half-way between Cologne and Berlin which can easily be reached for a day trip. The city is also close to the Harz mountains whose narrow-gauge lines are an important tourist attraction.

Full details should be available immediately after Christmas. Please send an SAE to Trevor Garrod, 15 Clapham Road, Lowestoft NR32 IRQ.

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