

# UPDATE N.46



European Federation of Museum & Tourist Railways



Museo Ferroviario di Primolano (Italy) - Open day - 2021 September 24th

## The First of Bi-monthly "Update" FEDECRAIL'S NEWSLETTER

We are proud to present the first copy of FEDECRAIL's bi-monthly newsletter, "Update". It also marks the beginning of a new era in our communications. Design will be further developed in the coming issues and also in connection with our new website that is under development and the further implementation of the communication project. The latter is also part of the transformation of FEDECRAIL into an activity platform, on which the members of FEDECRAIL, the stakeholders and others actively interested in historical rail, and in general about working industrial and mobile heritage, can be active or become active.

As things stand the Update will be published in October and December 2021 and in February, April, June, August, October and December 2022. The closing date for copy and images for all these issues will be on the 8th of that issue month. All material must then have reached our content manager, Ingrid Schuette, via e-mail: [schuette@fedecrail.org](mailto:schuette@fedecrail.org).

Until now, the Update publication has been mostly one-way traffic, from FEDECRAIL to our members. We think that as part of the more member-oriented policy, it is very important that members also use the "Update" to share news and knowledge. In this sense, it is also important to deliver the texts and any images no later than the 8th of the month of publication.

If you have any doubts, you can of course ask Ingrid if she thinks it is important to publish your contribution. You can also ask one of the board members, whose contact details can be found on the website [www.fedecrail.org/council](http://www.fedecrail.org/council).

## **Presentation of the FEDECRAIL Board.**

In recent months, the composition of our Board has changed significantly. At the Annual General Meeting on 19 June 2021, we said goodbye to board members Heimo Echensperger, Jonas Svartlok and Peter Ovenstone. Meanwhile, as of 1 October 2021, Bruno Fleury, board member and vice president, also resigned (see elsewhere in this Update).

At the Annual General Meeting on 19 June, Mimmi Mickelsen, Frederic Riehl and Gottfried Aldrian were elected as new board members for a three-year term. President Jaap Nieweg stepped down but, being nominated for re-election, was also appointed as a board member for a period of three years.

Thereafter, the members' meeting elected Jaap Nieweg as president and Frederic Riehl as treasurer. As vice presidents, Mimmi Mickelsen and incumbent board member Pierluigi Scoizzato were elected.

### **Presentation Round Episode 1: President Jaap Nieweg**

Starting with this first bi-monthly issue, each Board member will introduce themself, starting with President, Jaap Nieweg.

Jaap Nieweg, born 1950, Nationality Dutch, Board Member of FEDECRAIL since 2017, reappointed in 2021, upon nomination of HRN, for a term of three years (retiring 2024). He is married and has two sons. He lives in the province of North Holland north of Amsterdam, in Hoorn.

His interest in rail traffic and in particular steam traction and classic interurban tramways started in his youngest days. In his birthplace, until he was seven years old, typical Dutch narrow gauge steam trams ran through the town and along the roadside. When he was four years old, he decided to become a steam tram driver on that steam tram. He saw most of "his" locomotives

being scrapped after they were discontinued in 1957. It had a great influence on his way of thinking about conservation and management. He studied history and is therefore a historian. In the early 1970s, he became involved with the Museumstoomtram Hoorn-Medemblik, where, after a period of volunteering and obtaining his train driver's licence, he was engaged as the first professional train driver, who also became responsible for running the freight service, which at that time was still run by the Museumstoomtram. In 1981, he started working for the largest sea animal park in Europe in Harderwijk, as head of marketing and PR and later, from 1986, as deputy director. In 1989 he started his own consultancy firm, "Nieweg Management Communication Consultant" (abbreviated to Nieweg MCC). He worked for governments, including the Ministry of Transport, provinces and municipalities. Between 1988 and 1991 he organised the biggest steam train spectacle in and around the Central Station in Amsterdam, with the DR 18 201 as an extra excursion train from Berlin to Amsterdam to take part in the STOOM '91 major event.

For the directors behind the Museumstoomtram Hoorn - Medemblik (SHM) this was reason to ask Jaap Nieweg to return to the nest as director in the conflict with the sitting director who was suspended. Appointed by shareholders and boards on 01 January 1993 and retired on 28 July 2015, during the farewell ceremony he was honoured with a royal knighthood. In his period of management, the Museum Steam Tram was developed as a successful museum which became the owner of the 21-kilometre-long railway line, as well as of the connecting boat service Medemblik – Enkhuizen v.v. The SHM acquired and restored four station buildings in projects with the long-term unemployed, and the organisation was formally registered as a museum in 1998. In 1994 Jaap was one of the founders of the national umbrella organisation Historic Rail Transport Netherlands (HRN), for which he acted as member/representative to the European organisation FEDECRAIL, founded in the same year. In 1999, he was asked by the Minister of Culture to set up an alliance of all sailing, equestrian and aeronautical monuments. Thus arose the Mobile Collection Netherlands (MCN) with which the basis could

be laid for a structural government policy on mobile heritage. The Museum Steam Tram eventually developed through trial and error, increasing in size from 90,000 passengers in 1993 to 145,000 in 2014, and continuing to grow to over 180,000 passengers annually. In the process, the number of paid employees grew from eight to 21 and the number of voluntary employees from 50 to 250 (320 at the beginning of Corona in 2020). After his retirement Jaap Nieweg still remained active as a volunteer employee as a train driver with the SHM. In 2016, founder and president of FEDECRAIL, David Morgan requested Jaap to succeed him as president, which took effect in 2017.

In the new composition of the board of FEDECRAIL, he will, in addition to the specific Presidential tasks, be concerned with the implementation of the "Plan Paris", including the creation of a European platform for working Industrial and Mobile Heritage proposed therein. The main objective of the participants, formulated in a first web-meeting on 7.7.2021, is to secure a place in the European Green Deal for a number of essential issues related to the conceptual authenticity in a material and immaterial sense of our type of heritage. He envisages doing this in close cooperation with the boards and staff of organisations and stakeholders affiliated to FEDECRAIL, which for the sake of convenience means the organisations active in the preservation of industrial and mobile heritage. He is therefore a

strong advocate of the establishment of FEDECRAIL as the platform for activities in which all those involved can work structurally and creatively with the knowledge available to us to achieve the objectives that will ultimately contribute to the preservation of our heritage in the long term.

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## Bruno Fleury Retires Early on 1 OCTOBER 2021

In the last week of September, I received the formal announcement from our board member and vice president Bruno Fleury to retire early on 1 October 2021.

Bruno had been nominated in 2019 by our French member, the national umbrella organisation UNECTO, of which Bruno was also vice president. He was then appointed at general membership meeting during our 25th anniversary celebration in Wernigerode. Bruno succeeded Jacques Daffis, who remained associated with our organisation as a member of our team, responsible for relations with the Iberian Peninsula. Bruno has since taken on a number of major responsibilities in regional politics. This has led him to end the museum and tourist rail activities at the administrative level, especially since his appointment to the political post of mayor which is for six years.



Jaap Nieweg in front of «his» steam locomotive



BEHIND  
THE LENS  
PHOTOGRAPHY

In his FEDECRAIL period, even before his appointment to the board, Bruno has actively participated in the HOG activities, regularly representing FEDECRAIL at meetings in Brussels, Lille and Valenciennes.

The board of FEDECRAIL thanks him warmly for his efforts in the interest of our European interests and wishes him good luck in the continuation of his political-administrative career.

**Jaap Nieweg**

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## **Heritage Operations Group and New Heritage Railway Operating Group**

In response to changing conditions (including Brexit and the pandemic) and in order to be better prepared for future challenges, the Board has decided to adapt the organisation of the working groups.

Gottfried Aldrian has been given the responsibility at board level for the HOG and the foundation of a new working group for heritage railways that run on their own infrastructure.

The task of setting up the new group will be complex and will take some time. We aim to start on the tasks soon and we will report on progress to you via update.

We would like members to continue to contribute to HOG and provide input to the new working group. What subjects should it cover, who should be on the group and what its remit should be. We feel it is particularly important to broaden the involvement of the members as much as possible. The idea of the new group to reach out to members and members of members for whom HOG is not relevant. So if you haven't participated in HOG as you, or your members, don't run on the mainline, do contact [Aldrian@fedecrail.org](mailto:Aldrian@fedecrail.org) with your ideas for the new group.

Jaap Nieweg and Gottfried Aldrian have been nominated as official representatives of

Fedecrail at ERA and GRB.

You may be interested in European Railway Safety Days, which will take place in Porto from 3 - 5 November 2021. You can find the detailed programme

<https://www.era.europa.eu/content/european-rail-safety-days-3-5-november-2021>

There are currently 45 ongoing ERTMS projects in the EU, if your mainline operations are affected by one of these projects, please let us know.

We have also added our name to a letter to the EU commission to protest at budget cuts to the European Union Agency for Railway as we believe these cuts will hamper the development of the railway sector across the EU.

**Gottfried Aldrian / Ian Leigh**

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## **European Platform in the Making**

In Update 45 we wrote about the first online meeting of the various parties involved in the implementation of Plan Paris, to obtain a serious place for working industrial and mobile heritage in the European Green Deal  
Meanwhile, action is being taken on several fronts.

Pierluigi Scoizzato visited the European Cultural Summit in Venice (see the report on that visit elsewhere in this Update). At the national level, Jaap Nieweg has held the first consultations with the Ministry of Culture in order to organize actual support from the national governments when the subject is formally discussed in Brussels during the European Council of Ministers.

The working group that will prepare the first webinar in our fields of interest will start working soon with an online meeting.

**Jaap Nieweg**

## **EUROPA NOSTRA** **European Cultural Heritage** **Summit 2021 in Venice**

*The European Cultural Heritage Summit 2021 in Venice took place from 21 to 24 September. It was organised by Europa Nostra – the European Voice of Civil Society Committed to Cultural Heritage – with the support of the European Union and in collaboration with other European and Italian partners. The Summit was held under the patronage of the European Parliament, the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Italian Ministry of Culture. Vice-President Pierluigi Scozzato represented FEDECRAIL.*

Numerous speeches were made by European government representatives, including Dr. Vasko Simoniti, Slovenian Minister of Culture and Acting Chair of the EU Council of Ministers; and Nina Obuljen Koržinek, Minister of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia. The Italian Minister of Culture Dario Franceschini also spoke. The event was held in full compliance with current anti-Covid rules which required a much reduced room capacity and spaced seating.

Although addressing different topics, all the speeches were marked by a common spirit of a new European renaissance based on the culture of our continent. It was emphasized that culture also means awareness of the value of preserving our cultural heritage.



S. Giorgio Isle, the venue of EN summit in Venice.

FEDECRAIL must also be involved in this complex collective process. In particular, only if we work together with our colleagues in the mobile and industrial heritage sector will we be able to carry more weight when important decisions are taken at European level regarding a sustainable future for our sector.

And this is what emerged from the personal meetings we were able to have with some of the participants. Andrew Potts, Chairman of the Climate Heritage Network (United States/France) invited FEDECRAIL to join the network and work together. Some steps have already been taken by President Jaap Nieweg to start the development of a “Working Industrial and Mobile Heritage” European platform in cooperation with several other European mobile and industrial heritage organisations. Joining forces with our colleagues should enable us all to make a contribution to achieving these shared objectives.

The key to continuing on our heritage path will be to make the wider community throughout Europe fully aware of the high cultural value of transport and industrial heritage and its importance as an element of the economic and social development of European society.

In a short conversation, Sneska Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa Nostra, confirmed to me that we all need to act now to build a secure future for European cultural heritage. It is essential for all elements of the cultural heritage sector to be even more collaborative and constructive in addressing wider realities to achieve our shared mission.

On a topic much closer to our field of action, Professor Piotr Gerber, a member of the EN Industrial & Engineering Heritage Committee and of TICCIH Poland (he attended our FEDECRAIL Conference 2018 in Edinburgh) confirmed his willingness to participate in the research project initiated by the EN IEH Committee to explore the feasibility of preserving a coal mine for both cultural and productive reasons to provide an ongoing fuel source for our European tourist railways and industrial heritage users.

Also on the sidelines of the Summit I was able to meet Marcos Ros Sempere, Member of the European Parliament, S&D Group (Spain).

He is a member of the EP Culture & Education Committee and is very interested in our field. He will also be able to put us in touch with colleagues in EP Transport & Tourism Committee. FEDECRAIL needs of course to liaise with both these Committees to raise political awareness of our sector (and with the Transport Committee our practical problems relating to mainline operations and the various EU railway industry directives).

Peter Ovenstone (Pierluigi Scoizzato)

## **UIC TopRail**

### **What is the “New Normal” for Museum and Tourist Railways and Tramways?**

FEDECRAIL has been represented in the work of the UIC TopRail Group to promote Rail Tourism since 2016. Part of the work has included the production of international Guidelines:

#### **Guidelines on Sustainable Tourism by Rail (2017)**

#### **Guidelines on how to increase attractiveness for rail tourism (2020)**

Both these documents are available to FEDECRAIL members through the link:

<https://toprail.org/>

We have also liaised with the UIC Covid-19 Task Force to bring together and share processes appropriate for rail passenger safety primarily at individual national level. Now attention has turned towards the future and assessing what will be the “New Normal” for the rail industry in general but obviously also including the impacts on rail tourism which includes our Museum and Tourist Railways. (Note that the UIC is a world railway organisation and our Tramway members come within the scope of the UITP which brings together world public transport operators but of course Museum operations for both modes share a commonality of interest in tourism).

Amongst many studies during the pandemic, two subjects have influence on the future of rail tourism which in the museum and tourist

railway sectors is central to the successful business of our FEDECRAIL members. Firstly, the assessment of the long-term effect of Covid-19 on the rail tourism industry helps us to define what will be the “New Normal” for our businesses for years to come. Secondly, recent surveys of European travellers' intentions and concerns can help our planning on how quickly visitor numbers are likely to build up and also to help us to understand what steps we should be taking to reassure visitors post-pandemic.

#### **Towards the “New Normal”**

A detailed top level multi-modal study by the UIC has drawn comparisons between transport mode major developments for the next 40 years. It suggests that there is a window of opportunity for the next ten years during which Rail can address negative customer factors and act to position our sector including Rail Tourism as the natural mode of choice in the developing post Covid-19 era with its focus on environmental performance.

We should review and action a number of strategic questions whilst we have the chance to promote Rail Tourism before other modes recover:

- 1) How can we enhance our visitors' experience, particularly taking advantage of new mobility and consumption behaviours arising out of the pandemic and/or environmental attitudes?
- 2) How can we position ourselves better in improving our environmental performance and publicising it?
- 3) Can we innovate in respect of our customer service and product offers? Perhaps co-operation with other modes (car, bicycle or combined product offers with national rail). Attractive alternatives to road or more polluting transport options are going to be strong selling points for us until those modes achieve widespread implementation. (Hopefully we can deliver on point (2) above!). Is outside funding available to support installation of electric car charging points at our stations/museums?
- 4) Can we improve product offer communication by co-operation with national rail or tourist office systems?
- 5) Can we find new cultural and other attractions for combining our individual products into a more attractive package?

- 6) Do we have spare buildings/ spaces that could be used for retail units or commercial activities to increase our revenues or to attract extra visitor spend outside our core activities? Can we make our stations/museums a new community hub?
- 7) Can we provide real-time information to encourage last-minute decision making by “what shall we do today” visitors? Can they check availability and book online to confirm their decision and ensure they arrive whatever the weather?

### **What are potential visitors / travellers planning?**

The European Travel Commission (ETC) have produced a report “Monitoring Sentiment for Domestic and Intra-European Travel” which is co-funded by the European Union. This has been prepared from data collected over eight separate Waves from September 2020 up to July 2021 and the latest Wave 8 results were published in September 2021 so provide the latest data looking at travel intentions as we move forward towards the “New Normal”. The report can be accessed at:

<https://etc-corporate.org/news/europeans-remain-upbeat-about-travelling-despite-delta-variant/>

The results were collected from Europeans in ten high volume source markets – Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and UK.

Whilst this survey specifically excludes the international non-European tourist market the general industry view is that there will be very slow recovery in the long-haul market. For our Museum and Tourist Railway industry the domestic and intra-European visitor markets are those which are fundamental to our FEDECRAIL members' businesses so the up-to-date opinions coming out of the wave 8 survey help us to forecast a recovery path for our budgets.

Interesting views coming out of this survey highlight the fact that the Covid-19 vaccine is fundamental to tourism recovery and half of all Europeans surveyed plan to book a trip once vaccinated with more than half confirming that it made them more optimistic and confident in travelling. The introduction of the EU digital Covid-19 certificate is a strong incentive to travel and 68% of Europeans plan to travel between July 2021 and January 2022 which is the highest level since September 2020.

Preference for air travel is decreasing primarily because of strengthening interest in domestic tourism (35%) and neighbouring country visits (30%) which are areas of focus for most of our members' markets.

It should be noted that one of the top three factors boosting travellers' confidence in planning a trip is their destination's effectiveness in managing Covid-19 and there remains a strong link between vaccination and travel confidence. The maintenance and publication of strict health and safety protocols by our members will continue to be a strong selling point for visitors.

Looking at preferences for types of trips, there has been little variance between the similar proportions of Culture+Heritage, Nature+Outdoors or City Breaks throughout the period of the survey since September 2020 so the interest for our Members' markets is still there to be promoted.

The full text of this survey is worth looking at while planning for our next and future seasons. At last we can believe that the light at the end of the tunnel is not a train rushing towards us on the same track! Best wishes to all our Members for increased visitor numbers in our next seasons. Certainly, working with our colleagues of the world public carrier railways we share the vision that things are improving for our world railway industry.

**John Fuller FCILT  
UIC Representative**

**Update No. 47 will be published in December 2021.**

**Deadline for texts and photos:  
December 8th**

