



Paseo de las Delicias, 20  
28045 Madrid  
Telf.: (+34) 917 749 400  
e-mail: rrii@semaf.org

## AUTONOME LOKOMOTIVFÜHRER - GEWERKSCHAFTEN - EUROPA



Madrid (Spain), 22nd December 2020

Dear friends,

After a year complicated for all of us by the unfortunate appearance of the COVID-19, the time has come to say goodbye to this 2020 and to welcome the year 2021, declared by Europe as the European Year of Railways. We would like to thank you for the strong support and overwhelming confidence that has been shown over the last twelve months and which gives us great strength to face the coming year with confidence and determination.

We have ahead of us a year full of challenges and difficulties but, just as we train drivers and railwaymen in general have always faced adversity, we will also find opportunities and find the light at the end of the tunnel.

When all this began at the beginning of 2020, ALE was at one of the best stages in its history, with a presence in all the European forums where issues related to train driving or railways are discussed, and being recognised by the most important bodies as the main interlocutors for train drivers in Europe.

During the pandemic we have not stopped our activity, in fact it has increased and we are currently present where the relevant decisions affecting the present and future of our profession are taken.

After the transposition of the 4th Railway Package and the opening of commercial long-distance services to private operators throughout Europe, it is even more necessary to unite the train drivers community and to find solutions. We cannot allow the world health crisis to be the excuse for any attempt to attack our rights.

Once again I would like to convey to you the pride of being able to represent an organisation like ALE. Each and every one of us is part of this great railway family that has been fighting and defending the interests of our colleagues from Europe for over 30 years and we will continue to serve as an umbrella for all those train drivers from east to west and north to south of Europe who feel that their working, social and economic conditions should be linked to the development of such an important and necessary profession as ours.



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From the Executive Presidency of ALE we wish you all to spend these days in the best possible company and the best health.

Kindest regards,



**Signed: Juan Jesús García Fraile**

**PRESIDENT OF ALE**