

## **Executive Director of CER with the representatives of Railways in BiH**



Executive Director of the CER (The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies) Dr. Libor Lochman, paid an official visit to Sarajevo on 25.06.2015. and met with the representatives of the railway sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The goal the visit was to introduce CER with the current state of the railway sector in BiH and its readiness to adapt to the integration process. Particular emphasis is placed on compliance of BiH railway legislation with the EU directives and the restructuring of the railway sector.

Representatives of the railway sector introduced Dr. Lochman with the current situation, the inevitable restructuring process and the problems with neighboring railways which strictly apply European Directives. The application of these directives in the cross-border traffic has led the railways in BiH in an uncompetitive position, which is why they had to call of most of the international trains.

Dr. Lochman expressed support for the railway sector in BiH, but also asked for the greater involvement of both state and entity governments, and the strengthening of the roof rail institutions with the emphasis on BHŽJK, due to its great significance. He said it was of crucial importance that the Entity governments and the railway companies sign multi-year contracts for the maintenance of the railway infrastructure and the co-financing of passenger traffic, and that these contracts are implemented.

Speaking on the implementation of European Directives in the cross-border traffic, dr. Lochman said that it must be in the mutual interest of neighboring companies and may not derogate mutually signed agreements which are still in force.

Having in mind state of the railway sector in BiH, dr. Lochman was pointed out that governments have an obligation to treat rail traffic in the same way as a road traffic, and that if they are unable to do so, to make a decision on it, and that the parliaments should exert pressure on the government to fulfill its commitments to the Railways.