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Traveling around the world in

No not in 80 days like Jules Verne's novel published in 1873, but in 90 minutes around the Corona world organized by Wattrain, the world umbrella for Heritage rail-organizations. On Tuesday March 30th the 4th CORONA Zoom-meeting will be the next possibility to be informed and to inform the colleagues all over the world about the actual situation. It is good to realize that you are not the sole COVID-victim, but that all over the world the whole sector is greatly influenced by the pandemic. Being informed by your colleagues in what way they are tackling COVID themselves, if there is help from regional or national governmental institutions and what clear visions can be developed for the future especially about the possibilities of repairing the visitors markets. Many heritage rail-organizations were able to develop a more direct marketing for the local and regional tourists. They changed sometimes their product-offer, by par example not to sell a ticket per person, but to sell a ticket per compartment, so that the visitors could be sure that no others were in the direct environment than the persons they are traveling with. For thinking about how the future for a more long-term will be, the main problem in this case is, that no-one can see at what moment COVID will be diminished as main influencing factor. And also how traveling possibilities will be re-instated or will completely changed and so of influence on the visitors market of Heritage rail.

Personally I am happy with the Wattrain initiative for this CORONA-Zoom-meetings. It gives us a boost of acting in a more unified way, using a modern technic of communication of today's world, that makes our world smaller. I see this as one of the more positive results of CORONA.

Jaap Nieweg



Unique new cooperation of the European Mobile Heritage sector

FEDECRAIL supports a unique new cooperation of the European Mobile Heritage sector. The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic suggests that the attention for environmental threads of the global warming up has been pushed back. But looking into this aspect of our behaviour from a more long-term perspective, the execution of the Plan Paris – the aim for a fair place in the EU Green Deal – will ask a maximum attention of all of us.

In the past year, the Dutch National Cultural Heritage Agency, in close cooperation with the Dutch Mobile Historical Collection foundation, has undertaken various activities in the area of European cooperation in the field of mobile heritage.

The various chairmen of European umbrella organisations for historical mobile heritage, i.c.: the road, rail and air sectors have agreed to intensify this cooperation, in which the water sector and the sector of working industrial heritage will also be invited to join.

FEDECRAIL has agreed to further intensify this cooperation, in order to set up a platform that will formulate central goals, which in future political climate debates should contribute to clear discussions and decision making in the European Parliament and the European Commission and will help to assure a steady future for our forms of heritage. The board of FEDECRAIL is preparing to organize web-meetings in the coming weeks with the boards of the individual national heritage rail umbrella-organizations being member of FEDECRAIL to listen to their ideas in this important subject.

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