

Update No. 38 March 2020

Corona : Cancellation and postponements

To all members of FEDECRAIL

Jaap Nieweg, President of FEDECRAIL on behalf of the Board of Directors

Hoorn (NL): 18 March 2020

Dear members,

The situation in our world is changing day by day, all caused by the Coronavirus. This influences our activities and programmes as the European umbrella organisation for the railway heritage sector.

A short chronological overview: On January 11th we held a general meeting in Leuven (B) with the members on the modernisation of our constitution. On 24 January, our secretary invited all members to the GA, which is scheduled to take place in Bilbao on 25 April 2020. On 13 March, we had to inform you that due to the circumstances of the Coronavirus, the FEDECRAIL Board of Directors had to decide to postpone the whole Bilbao programme to a later time, but that we had to keep the first part of our GA on the agenda for constitutional reasons and proposed to look for a more accessible place (Brussels Airport).

Now, five days later, when many European countries have taken far-reaching measures, as the EU has done by closing the Schengen area to non-EU countries, we have no choice but to take very firm decisions. We first consulted Belgian law in relation to our constitution. Our Belgian board member, Jos vander Perre, also a Belgian lawyer, advised us in this matter and we took the following decision:

1. The division of the general meeting into two parts will no longer be necessary in this situation and will not be carried out in this way.
2. The GA will be held at the same time as the conference and working group meetings in the last quarter of this year (2020), if the situation allows.

The conference team is trying to postpone the whole programme to Bilbao towards the end of the year, see the beginning of 2021, as indicated above "if the situation allows". We will discuss in the Council how we should proceed.

We have also had to decide, at the request of the organising country, Great Britain, to postpone the FEDECRAIL youth exchange, scheduled for August 2020, to a later date (2021).

It will be difficult to predict what the future will bring. FEDECRAIL will try to continue, as far as possible, to act as a European organisation for our sector, the railway heritage. So if you have problems, which could also be similar to those in other European countries, let us know and we will try to give you a hand and use our network to support you.



We wish everyone, and your family and friends, good health and safety. Let's keep in touch.

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