ZEFES

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025

Dear reader,

Welcome to the summer edition of the ZEFES newsletter!

We're happy to share that we've hit another important milestone in the project.

In this sunny summer edition, you'll find a quick look back at the last few months—ZEFES was present at several events and we held a successful project update.

Looking ahead, our **Stakeholder Symposium** is coming up on **25 February 2026 in Luxembourg**. It'll be a great chance for everyone involved to catch up, exchange ideas, and talk about what's next.

Also, don't miss the **coffee break interviews** with our partners.

Wishing you a bright and breezy summer—thanks for riding along with the ZEFES journey!

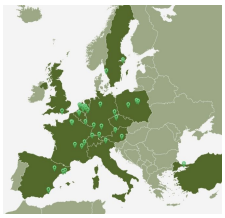
Warm regards,
The ZEFES Team

Milestone 5 achieved: Performance Platform Ready!
We are pleased to announce that the fifth milestone has been successfully reached—the Performance Platform is now ready for use! This is a significant achievement in the project, and it marks an important step forward.

To achieve this milestone, the following deliverables were submitted:
D6.1: Simulation performance of demonstrators via vehicle Digital Twin
D8.1: Assessment Framework
D4.4: Decision Making Platforms
D5.2: Functional Safety Concept

With these key components in place, the project is now poised for the next phase of development and testing. We look forward to building on this success.

ZEFES Presented at the RTR Conference in Brussels
On 13 February, the ZEFES project was showcased at the RTR Conference in Brussels by project coordinator Omar Hegazy and technical coordinator Ben Kraaijenhagen from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Their presentation took place during the session on Zero Emission Systems for Heavy-Duty Vehicles (HDV), highlighting both recent achievements and ongoing challenges within the project.



The ZEFES consortium consists of 40 partners from 14 European countries. The project partners represent the entire value chain, from truck and trailer manufactures, to shippers and suppliers, research organisations and universities, as well as regulatory bodies. Click here to get an overview of all the ZEFES project partners.

Pre-Register now for the ZEFES Stakeholder Symposium 2026!
Join us in Luxembourg on 25 February 2026!

We are pleased to invite all stakeholders to the next in-person ZEFES Stakeholder Symposium, hosted by CFL Multimodal in Luxembourg.
This key event will feature live demonstrations of ZEFES solutions, bringing Europe one step closer to a zero-emission freight future.

"The upcoming stakeholder session in Luxembourg will be a pivotal step forward," said Ben Kraaijenhagen, Technical Coordinator of ZEFES. "We invite regulators, operators, OEMs, infrastructure providers, and digital innovators to join us in co-creating scalable solutions for zero-emission freight. Let's make real-world impact—together."

Pre-register now and be part of the movement toward sustainable logistics across Europe.

The coordinators emphasised key issues such as energy infrastructure, the harmonisation of legal frameworks across EU member states—particularly the Directive on Weights and Dimensions—and the development of Digital Twin platforms. Addressing these challenges is crucial for the successful implementation of zero-emission solutions in HDVs.

In addition to ZEFES, two other projects from the AEVETO cluster were presented: ESCALATE and EMPOWER. The session was moderated by Eric Cerneaz, the ZEFES Project Officer from CINEA, and Ian Faye from Robert Bosch, ensuring an insightful discussion on the future of zero-emission transport.
The session reinforced the importance of collaboration among various stakeholders, an effort that ZEFES continues to support through its engagement with the AEVETO cluster projects. By fostering cooperation and innovation, ZEFES aims to drive forward sustainable solutions for the transport sector.

Pre-registration

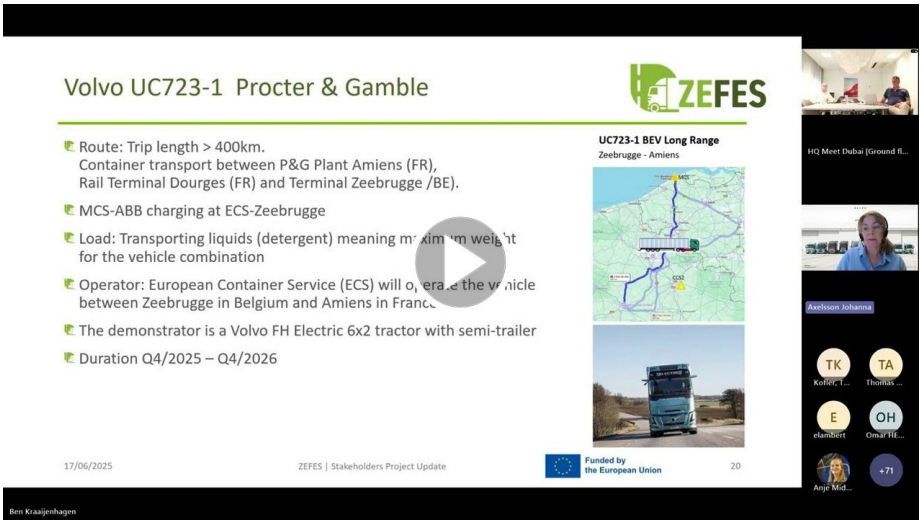
Events
ZEFES partners took part in both the IRU event on 'Decarbonising EU Road Transport for 2030 and Beyond' and the 2025 Transport & Logistics Fair, contributing at the ALICE booth, the K-Expert Talk, and a special session.

Successful ZEFES Project Update

On June 17th, the ZEFES consortium hosted a successful Project Update session, bringing together more than 85 stakeholders from across Europe to review the progress of the project's Use Cases (UCs) and advancements in zero-emission long-haul freight vehicles.

Over the course of the two-hour virtual meeting, project partners shared detailed updates on the upcoming UCs, emphasizing both the technical progress made and the challenges currently being tackled. A standout moment of the session was the presentations by truck OEMs, who unveiled the latest vehicle models set for real-world demonstration in logistics operations. The session generated engaging discussions and valuable feedback, underlining the importance of collaboration in accelerating the transition to zero-emission freight solutions.

For those who could not attend or wish to revisit the session, the recording is now available below:



The ZEFES coffee break interviews

Get to know Henning Wittig
Henning studied Electrical Engineering (Automation and Control) at Technische Universität Dresden. In 2007 he started working as a Research Associate with the Fraunhofer Institute for Transportation and Infrastructure Systems IVI, Dresden, Germany. In this role his research activities were in the area of modelling and simulation of energy storage systems. Since 2017 he focused on system development and integration for battery electric drive systems in commercial vehicles and worked as a project manager in various European projects for the development and introduction of alternative drive concepts in long-distance freight transport.

What was your original motivation to become a researcher/project manager?
Research and development in the area of battery-electric drive systems and automated driving especially in applications of public transport and commercial vehicles gives me an opportunity to contribute to the social responsibility of mitigating the effects of climate change. Supporting the project management additionally helps to get an overall picture of the challenges and tasks to be solved by R&D, the industry and the affected stakeholders.

What is your (main) research area today?
I mostly engage in the development and implementation of technologies and algorithms for automated operation of vehicles in various applications and environments like logistics yards, depots and agriculture.

Read the full interview here.

Get to know Elena Lazovik

TNO

Get to know Camiel Beckers

TNO

ZEFES partners

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