



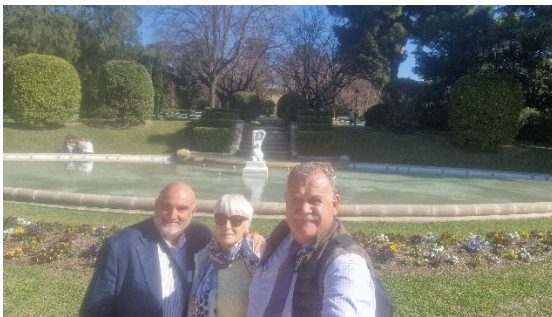
**ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES
CHEMINOTS AEC**

**EUROPEAN RAILWAY WORKERS'
ASSOCIATION**

SPANISH SECTIONA (AEC-SE)



**Chronicle of two memorable days: European Federalism in
Barcelona and tribute as Honorary Member of the AEC-SE to Luis del
Olmo, in Roda de Berà**



There are weekends that are not forgotten. Not because of the agenda -which is also true-, but because of the feeling of living something that adds, that builds, that leaves a mark.

Friday 20 and Saturday 21 March 2026 were exactly that for the **European Association of Railway Workers – Spanish Section (AEC-SE)**: two days that united European thought,

railway memory, culture, affection and recognition.



Friday 20 March: Barcelona and the European Federalist pulse.

The first stop was Barcelona, where a delegation from the AEC-SE attended the **Congress of the European Federalist Movement**. At the Pedralbes Palace, a meeting is being held to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Organisation and which brought together voices committed to the political future of Europe.

The atmosphere was vibrant: debates on shared sovereignty, strategic independence, European citizenship and the role of civil society organisations in building a stronger European Union. Between flags, panels and conversations, the presence of the AEC-SE provided a unique perspective: that of the railway as a **cohesion infrastructure**, as a symbol of mobility, territorial union and public service.



*Carlos Abellán and Alberto J. Sierra at the 80th
Congress of the European Federalist Movement
(M.F.E.)*

The photographs of the meeting – with the big blue 80th anniversary sign and the slogan *"It's time for a declaration of independence from*

the European Union" – capture that spirit well: a moment of collective reflection on the direction of the continent.



Saturday, March 21: Roda de Berà and a tribute that is already history.

The next day, the trip took us to a very special place: the **Luis del Olmo Radio Museum**, in Roda de Berà.



Soci@s of the AEC-SE with the Honorary Member, Mr. Luis del Olmo

There, at 12:00 p.m., we held the institutional ceremony in which the AEC-SE distinguished **Luis del Olmo Marote as Honorary Member 2024 of the AEC-SE.**

The **official press release** summed it up precisely:

"The European Association of Railway Workers – Spanish Section, will distinguish the Leonese radio journalist Luis del Olmo Marote as an Honorary Member, in recognition of his extraordinary professional career and, in a very special way, his deep link with the railway world".

And the fact is that the family history of Luis del Olmo – father, grandfather and great-grandfather railway workers – beats strongly in his biography. As the note states:

"His father, grandfather and great-grandfather were railway workers in the Bierzo region... which makes Luis del Olmo the depository of a family tradition deeply linked to the railway".

The act was solemn, emotional and full of symbolism.

The **Honorary Member plaque** and **honorary diploma**, the museum's display cases, the historical photographs, the presence of the **European President General of the AEC, Carlos Abellán Ruiz**, and the public that filled the room, created an atmosphere of intimate and institutional celebration.



General view of the attendance and at the lectern, Begoña del Pueyo with the presentations

The emotional event was attended by more than 50 people, including **his wife Mercedes**, **his granddaughter**, **his brother Javier del Olmo**, director of the Radio Museum, our supporter **Begoña del Pueyo**, the mayor of Roda de Berá **Pere Virgili**, several councilors of the bordering municipalities, and several directors of AEC-SE such as the Spanish president of AEC-SE **Jesús Aguilar**, the secretary **José Manuel Rodríguez** as master of ceremonies, the deputy secretary **Alberto José Sierra** in charge and author of the beautiful final laudatory, the treasurer **Paco González** and the members, **Manuel Gallardo** and **Diego Guerrero** among others, at the end of the act we were able to toast with a cava and taste the typical products and where it was not missing, as a final touch, the "*Asturias Patria Querida*".



The laudatio: Luis del Olmo, A Voice that Accompanies the Country.

The **laudatio**, read in the museum itself, was one of the most intense moments of the day. The text – profound, literary and full of images – drew a portrait of Luis del Olmo as a **voice that accompanies, guides and awakens**, and as heir to a railway ethic based on public service, responsibility and proximity.

A few lines especially resonated in the room:



Members of the Board of Directors of AEC and in the center, the honoree Mr. Luis del Olmo

"There voices that inform, voices that entertain and there are voices that end up being part of the collective memory of a country. Luis del Olmo's voice belongs to that exceptional category."

And also: *"For more than forty years, 'Protagonistas' was not just a radio program: it was the*

Transcantábrico of the airwaves." The comparison between the mythical Transcantábrico tourist train and the program "Protagonistas" that Luis del Olmo broadcast on the air for more than forty years and that marked entire generations, drew smiles and nods. It was evident that the honoree not only received recognition: he also received a collective hug that moved the winner.



The radio journalist Mr. Luis del Olmo exhibits the diploma and thanks the recognition.

It was then, in the middle of laudatio and in a completely surprising way, when the room darkened softly and a video began to be projected on the big screen **with the unmistakable tune of Protagonistas**. The images traveled, one after another, through the different radio stations through which Del Olmo had passed throughout his career, as well as the faces of many of the collaborators who accompanied him at each stage.

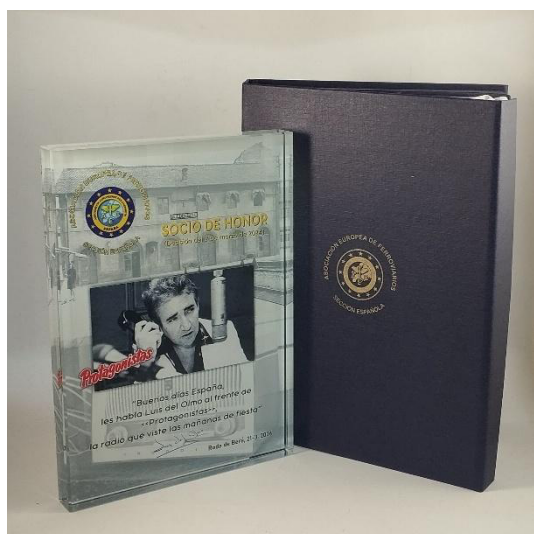
As the production progressed, an excited murmur was heard among the audience: it was like traveling through the sound memory of an entire country. Luis del Olmo watched in silence, with a mixture of surprise, gratitude and nostalgia that filled the space with warmth.



Receiving the commemorative plaque from the hands of the European President General, Mr. Carlos Abellán, the Mayor of Roda de Berá, Mr. Pere Virgili and the Deputy Secretary of the Spanish section of the AEC, Mr. Alberto José Sierra.



Honorary Diploma and Commemorative Plaque:



A brotherhood meal to close the circle.



Overview. Brotherhood lunch for ACS members and supporters at the ACFT headquarters, Tarragona

After the event, the day continued with a **brotherhood meal** organized by the **Railway Cultural Association of Tarragona (ACFT)**. The menu was as generous as the atmosphere: varied appetizers and a **hearty and magnificent paella**, prepared with beef, chicken, pork, rabbit and seafood. A paella "of those that make a family", as someone commented laughing.

The photographs of the group, the shared tables, the toasts and the huge paella in the center of the room speak for themselves: it was a perfect closure to a weekend that united institutions, memory, affection and commitment.



Diego Marín, our railwayman, retired chief engineer and gentle cook with his wonderful and delicious paella.



Jesús Aguilar and Alberto J. Sierra imposing the insignia on Borja Cepriá, president of the Tarragona Railway Cultural Association

Special thanks to **Borja Cepriá Díaz**, president of the Railway Cultural Association of Tarragona and province, **Vanessa Sánchez Bellido**, both members of AEC-SE; to the chef and chief engineer **Diego Marín** for the great paella, and to the authors of the short conference and audiovisual on the railway in the province of Tarragona, given by **José María Sánchez Blanco** (Supervisor of Adif stations and **Albert Pallares** (teacher and son of Pitu) and renowned railway worker from Tarragona.



*After lunch, interesting conference on the railway in Tarragona and its Province,
by José María Sánchez and Albert Pallares*



A weekend that adds up.

Barcelona and Roda de Berà. European federalism and railway memory. Political debate and cultural and institutional tribute. Institution and emotion. In short, to cultivate brotherhood, where the railway and the railwaymen build bridges of friendship, generating shared feelings and emotions.

Two days that showed the best of the AECSE: its European vocation, its respect for history, its commitment to public service and its ability to weave community.

A weekend that, without a doubt, will remain in the memory of all of us who lived it.

Santiago de Compostela – Santander, 8 de April de 2026

Alberto José Sierra Daza

Deputy Secretary of the European
Association of Railways, Spanish Section
(AEC-SE)
and European Coordinating Delegate

Carlos Abellán Ruiz

European President General of the
European Railway Association (AEC)

Firmado por SIERRA DAZA
ALBERTO JOSE - ***3718**
el día 08/04/2026 con un
certificado emitido por
AC FNMT Usuarios



Firmado por Carlos
Abellán Ruiz el día
08 / 04 / 2026 con un
certificado emitido
por AEC FNMT
EUROPEA DE FERROVIARIOS
AEC-SESS





ASSOCIACION EUROPEENNE DES CHEMINOTS
EUROPEAN RAILWAY WORKERS' ASSOCIATION
SPANISH SECTION



HONORARY MEMBER OF AEC-SE FOR 2024
LUIS DEL OLMO MAROTE

Luis del Olmo's LAUDATIO: The Voice That Accompanies The Country.

There are voices that inform, voices that entertain and there are voices that, without intending to, end up being part of the collective memory of a country. Luis **del Olmo's voice** belongs to that exceptional category that not only accompanies, but also guides, consoles and awakens. A voice that, for decades, has been a beacon, companion and conscience for millions of listeners.

And perhaps – just maybe – it is no coincidence that that voice was born in a railway family. Luis del Olmo Marote is the son, grandson and great-grandson of railroad workers: three generations united by rails, stations, trains and routes that connect lives. In his biography beats that railway pulse: the idea of public service, responsibility, ethical punctuality and building bridges between people and territories. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather worked on the railroad; and he, from the other platform, also chose to communicate, but always with the same vocation of closeness and of uniting the country.

If Víctor Manuel San José—as was said in last week's laudatio and which today serves as a mirror for us— belongs to *"that rare and necessary lineage that understands music not only as a trade, but as an act of responsibility,"* Luis del Olmo belongs to that same lineage, but from the airwaves. His responsibility was the word. Its stage, the microphone. Their commitment, citizenship.

In the same way as in the Spanish railway world, the **Transcantábrico tourist train** is the jewel in the crown, a unique piece that combines memory, excellence and a way of travelling through the North of Spain that is almost an art, for more than forty years, **'Protagonistas'** was not just a radio programme: it was the **Transcantábrico** de las ondas, the particular jewel of Spanish radio broadcasting, a national meeting space. A sound train that traveled the entire country every morning, stopping at all the stations of public and private life, collecting voices, stories, denunciations, joys and silences, where there was room for politics and humor, denunciation and tenderness, culture and daily life. **[...Video....]** In this way, Luis del Olmo turned the radio into a democratic agora, into a place where the country could listen to itself. His social influence was immense: he shaped opinions, opened debates, gave voice to those who did not have it and always maintained a line of respect, rigor and humanity that we miss today in so many public spheres.

His style – serene, firm, close – made entire generations grow up with the feeling that, while he spoke, the country was a little more accompanied. His voice did not need stridency to become indispensable. Like good railway workers, Luis del Olmo knew that the important thing is not the noise of the train, but the destination to which it leads together with the comfort of the journey. And in this way he understood that, when something is done very, very well, it has the advantage of excellence.

Today, Luis, by recognizing him as an **Honorary Member of the European Association of Railway Workers – Spanish Section (AEC-SE)**, we celebrate not only the exceptional journalist, but also the exemplary citizen. A man who has put his talent at the service of the common good, who has

dignified the profession and who has shown that communication, in addition to being obliged to be an act of Truth and Social Justice, can also be an act of civility and affection.

And this recognition that we make today acquires an even deeper meaning, when we place it next to the one awarded to Víctor Manuel. Two different trajectories, two different languages – one, music; the other, the radio—, but with the same ethical root: the defense of dignity, social sensitivity, coherence and closeness. As said in Víctor Manuel's laudatio, there are artists who "fill consciences." Luis del Olmo, from the airwaves, also did it. **Together, these two appointments draw the emotional and moral map that inspires the European Railway Association (AEC) and that remains reflected in its statutes: a universe of sensitivities, but with a common denominator of commitment, honesty, culture, memory and humanity.**

And it should be emphasized: **these two appointments are not the result of chance.** These two recognitions constitute the **first vertices of an industrial estate** that we are deliberately building; a symbolic framework within which the diversity that makes up the European Railway Association (AEC) can coexist – with harmony and meaning. Each vertex represents a way of understanding public service, a way of bringing light to the country and a sensitivity that enriches the whole.

That is why, in this emblematic place and at this significant moment, I humbly allow myself to propose that the **third vertex of that polygon be occupied by a voice that speaks in feminine.** Because even today, society as a whole in general – and the ACS in particular – are indebted to the social, labour and representative relevance that corresponds to them, in fair equity. Incorporating this feminine vertex would not only complete the ethical geometry that we are outlining, but would reaffirm our commitment to a fairer, broader and more faithful representation to the reality of those who have sustained, for decades, the railway life, the cultural life and the public life of our country.

For all of the above we celebrate Luis del Olmo today: for his voice, yes, but also for his example. Because it reminds us that to communicate is to serve, that the word can unite and that, as Galeano said in Víctor Manuel's laudatio, *"we are what we do to change what we are"*. And Luis del Olmo, throughout his professional life, has made radio an instrument to improve Spain as a country.

Today, on behalf of those of us who believe in the value of public service – whether from a train cabin or from a radio studio – we thank you, Luis.

Finally, I would like to conclude this laudatio with two quotations:

The first, coming from Stoicism and assigned to Zeno of Citium: *"Nothing great is born big: everything begins in the small seed that someone takes care of, because great changes always begin with small gestures that someone dares to make."*

The second quote, still without a known author, comes from the humanist thought that involved relevant figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela or even Mother Teresa of Calcutta: *"Sometimes, changing the world does not require an army, but the simple gesture of an outstretched hand"*.

Laudatio read by Alberto José Sierra Daza at the Luis del Olmo Radio Museum, in Roda de Berá, a 21 de March del 2026



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "A. Sierra Daza", is written over a horizontal line.