

Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU)

15th FORMAL MEETING OF THE S2R JU GOVERNING BOARD

BRUSSELS, 13 December 2017, 10h00 – 12h30

White Atrium building,

Avenue de la Toison d'Or 56-60, B-1060 Brussels

PRESENT:

European Union, represented by the European Commission	Elisabeth WERNER, Director C	Chair (alternate)
	Clara de la TORRE, DG RTD, Director H	Co-Chair (alternate)
	Keir FITCH, DG MOVE	Observer
	Mihaela WILLIAMS, DG MOVE	Observer
	Leonardo DONGIOVANNI, DG MOVE	Observer
	William BIRD, DG RTD	Observer
ALSTOM		
ANSALDO STS	Nadia MAZZINO	Member
AZD Praha	Michal PAVEL	Alternate Member
BOMBARDIER TRANSPORTATION	Richard FRENCH	Member

CAF	José GORTAZAR	Alternate Member
DEUTSCHE BAHN	Ralf MARXEN	Alternate Member
EUROC	Jose Carlos CLEMENTE	Member
EUROC	Thomas PETRASCHKEK	Alternate Member
HACON	Lars DEITERDING	Member
INDRA	Javier Rivilla LIZANO	Alternate Member
KNORR - BREMSE	Johannes GRAEBER	Member
NETWORK RAIL (Industrial Spokesperson)	Andy DOHERTY	Member
SIEMENS	Jürgen SCHLAHT	Alternate Member
SMARTDEMAIN	Henk SAMSON	Member
SMARTRACON	Meyer ZU HORSTE	Member
SNCF	Carole DESNOST	Member
SNCF	Christophe CHERON	Alternate Member
THALES	Yves PERREAL	Alternate Member
TRAFIKVERKET	Bo OLSSON	Member
VVAC+	Filip KITANOSKI	Member (remotely)
European Railway Agency	Richard LOCKETT	Observer
Chairperson of the States Representative Group	Miroslav HALTUF	Observer

Chairperson of the Scientific Committee	Sebastian STICHEL	Observer
S2R	Carlo M BORGHINI, S2R JU	Executive Director
	Giorgio TRAVAINI, S2R JU	Observer
	Vincent DECLERFAYT	Observer
	Isaac GONSALEZ GARCIA, S2R JU	Observer
	Catherine CIECZKO, S2R JU	Observer
	Georgios PATRIS, S2R JU	Secretariat

JU Members invited by the Governing Board to attend the meeting as observers:

TALGO	Daniel MOLINA	Observer
WABTEC	Claude BAUDRY	Observer

LIST OF DECISIONS:

The following decision was taken by the Board:

1. DECISION No 10/2017 on the selection of a new member of the Scientific Committee of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking following the Call for expression of interest S2R.SC.01.2017

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSIONS:

INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed the participants to the fifteenth meeting of the Governing Board of the S2R JU and briefly presented the items of the Agenda.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The final agenda, as indicated below, was approved by the Board.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND MoM	
2. INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION	10:00
3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON S2R JU ACTIVITIES	
ITEMS FOR DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD	
4. DECISION ON THE SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE SHIFT2RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERVE LIST	10:20
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD	
5. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2018 (if necessary, to be adopted by short term written procedure)	10:30
6. ACTION PLAN TO ANSWER THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE S2R INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT, ALSO IN RELATION TO S2R 2030 (if necessary, to be adopted by short term written procedure)	10:50
7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE S2R JU GOVERNING BOARD	11:20
8. OUTCOME OF THE INVITATION TO THE AMs (restricted session)	11:50
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
9. AOB	12:15
▪ INDICATIVE LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE OR AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING	
▪ DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING(S)	

All participants signed a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and of confidentiality. In this respect, considering that the Associated Members had a risk of Conflict of Interest concerning Item 8, the Chair proposed to postpone this item until the end of the meeting and deal with it in the absence of the representatives of the Associated Members and Observers. The Governing Board agreed with the Chair's proposal.

2. INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION

The Chair highlighted the overall progress in the S2R activities and regarding the latest developments, she recalled the Commission presentation during the previous meeting of the Board.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE COMMISSION

The Executive Director highlighted the informal dinner that took place the day before the Board meeting, during which the Board members had the opportunity to exchange views with the Director General of DG MOVE, Mr Henrik Hololei regarding the current and the future research activities in the railway sector. He also informed the members of the progress of the recruitment of Programme Managers in order to fill three positions that are/will be vacant in the coming period. The selection of the successful candidates will be concluded before the end of the year and the new Programme Managers are expected to take up duties by March 2018. Given the increased needs of the JU and following the example of other JUs, the Executive Director noted that the JU would like to explore with the members the possibility of posting suitable employees, who could contribute in the peer review of the JU's activities, while taking the necessary measures to avoid any conflict of interest. In addition the JU will shortly launch a call for experts for project evaluation. This proposal is included in the amendment of AWP 2018, and will not have any impact on budget.

The Governing Board took note of the information provided.

Moreover, following the request of the Executive Director, the Governing Board also approved the termination of the validity of the reserve list of proposals, which were submitted under the Shift2Rail JU call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2017-01. The Executive Director shall notify accordingly the concerned proposals' coordinators.

4. DECISION ON THE SELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE SHIFT2RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERVE LIST

The Executive Director briefly described the selection procedure, in line with the Board's Decision No 4/2107 on the process, the selection criteria and the selection panel established for this purpose, which

resulted in the selection of Dr Klaus Moessner. He also noted that for procedural reasons the validity of the previously established reserve list had to be terminated.

The Executive Director also informed the Board members about ongoing discussions for the re-organisation of the Scientific Committee in terms of tasks and roles. A possible approach, in line with examples of other JUs, would be for the members of the Scientific Committee to have a specific mandate in terms of scope and duration in order to perform defined tasks, reflecting the JU's scientific priorities, as well as a provision for reimbursement of the experts for a limited number of days per year. The issue is currently under discussion in the Scientific Committee and a concrete proposal will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee noted that the selected candidate was considered as the most suitable in order to bring the required expertise in the area of IP2 and in digitalisation and he also supported the idea of the re-organisation of the Scientific Committee, as described by the Executive Director.

The members of the Board expressed their confidence in the selection committee and to the outcome of the selection process and requested additional information on the profile of the selected candidate (curriculum vitae to be circulated with the minutes). The Chair also proposed that the selected candidate may be invited in a next Board meeting to present himself.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted the decision on the selection of one member of the Scientific Committee of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and the establishment of a reserve list.

5. ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2018

The Chair briefly explained that, following the adoption of the Annual Work Plan 2018 (AWP 2018) in the previous Board meeting, the first amendment is necessary, mainly to include the essential provisions for the lump-sum option, in particular for the call for members.

In reply to a question by CAF, the Executive Director explained that information sessions will be organised in order to better explain the technicalities of the lump-sum option to the S2R members. He also referred to some editorial changes in the text as well as to other necessary corrections (e.g. the use of terms “certification” and “authorisation” instead of “homologation”). He highlighted the initial feedback received from potential candidates during the Information Day, according to which the scope of the Open Call topic in IP3 is considered by some potential applicants to be too broad and therefore discouraging for the participation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In this context he asked

the Board members whether they would consider it appropriate to split the two work streams contained in this topic, into two separate topics.

The Industrial Spokesperson expressed his support to the participation of SMEs in the Open Calls and at the same time highlighted the need for the IP3 Open Call to reach the desired TRL, which is the highest so far in the programme for IP3 and this could be better pursued through a larger project in terms of scope and budget. ANSALDO also noted that the two work streams of the call topic in question are not far from each other, therefore technically the split is not necessary. SDM noted that there are arguments in favour of both options and highlighted the importance of maintaining the high TRL.

The Industrial Spokesperson also noted that the increased TRL in the IP3 topic requires the use of infrastructure testing facilities, which are rather scarce in Europe and usually entail a significant cost for the project. The Chairperson of the SRG confirmed the very limited availability of rail infrastructure testing facilities in Europe and noted that the investment in such facilities should be supported by EU programmes such as the Connecting Europe Facility. SNCF noted that experience in this field has demonstrated that it is very difficult to achieve a viable return of investment due to the very significant initial costs. The Commission (RTD) informed the members that there is currently an initiative to collect the needs of such facilities and it would be very useful to receive input in this respect. Concerning the split of the IP3 topic, the Commission (MOVE) noted that this could be done as a test in order to assess the results, by maintaining the same TRL.

DB highlighted a potential risk concerning the realisation of the ATO demonstrator due to the fact that one of the members involved may not be able to provide the expected input. The issue is being closely monitored and the Board will be duly informed in the next meeting.

Next steps

The JU will launch a written procedure for the adoption of the AWP 2018. The issue concerning the infrastructure testing facilities will be brought for discussion in the next meeting of the IP3 Steering Committee, with the aim to formulate a proposal for discussion in the next meeting of the Governing Board. A representative of the SRG may be invited for this topic in the Steering Committee meeting.

6. ACTION PLAN TO ANSWER THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE S2R INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT, ALSO IN RELATION TO S2R 2030

The Executive Director presented the first draft of the Action Plan aiming to describe the JU's initiatives in order to address the six main recommendations contained in the S2R Interim Evaluation Report. He briefly explained the proposed actions and invited the Board members to provide their comments in view of the next GB meeting.

The Commission (RTD) highlighted the fact that certain recommendations are similar for all JUs and that there should be at least a minimum level of coordination on the actions to address them.

The Executive Director noted that the discussion for the future actions unavoidably leads into considerations about S2R 2. In this context he highlighted four points for consideration of the Board in its next meeting:

1. The future set-up of the JU concerning the membership should aim at being inclusive but at the same time leading to a manageable structure.
2. The S2R Programme should not be defined in the establishment regulation and stronger relations should be foreseen, with the SRG and the SC.
3. The role of the Governing Board should be more strategic, delegating, for example, the administrative issues to the Executive Director, with the necessary control on his actions.
4. The notions of agility and multi-annuality are necessary for the programme to have the required flexibility in terms of reallocating resources according to the needs.

The Industrial Spokesperson noted that the industry members should prepare recommendations for S2R 2 and propose certain improvements they consider necessary. A meeting among the members for this purpose will be organised within January 2018. The Chair encouraged the members to come up with proposals as soon as possible, as the preparatory work for the next multi-annual financial framework will start early next year. It was agreed that these proposals should include horizontal aspects across JUs, such as in terms of technologies to be developed (e.g. automation, digitalisation) given that members of S2R JU participate in different JUs, but also highlight the rail specificities and needs for the period beyond 2020.

Next steps

The industry members of the Board will provide their input to the proposed action plan and their proposals for the future of S2R by the end of January 2018.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE S2R JU GOVERNING BOARD

The Executive Director referred to the acquisition of Hacon by Siemens. He noted that all parties involved have been contacted in order to clarify the situation. The deliberations have not been concluded, however there is an agreement on the main elements of the case, namely that:

- a. There is a gap in the legal framework on how to address this case as this kind of situation was not explicitly foreseen when establishing the rules for S2R.
- b. In the current EU legislative framework, the membership and participation of those two members in S2R creates perpetual rights and obligations, which have to be addressed.
- c. All sides seek for a solution, which will be based on a secure legal interpretation and should not negatively impact the programme implementation.

The Chair noted that a solution should be found which gives legal certainty to all parties; moreover the solution in this case should be used to solve similar situations in the future.

Next steps

The deliberations will continue and the final outcome will be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

8. OUTCOME OF THE INVITATION TO THE AMs

The discussion on this topic took place, at the end of the meeting, without the presence of the representatives of the Associated Members and Observers.

The Executive Director explained in detail the topics addressed in the proposals of the Associated Members and presented a draft recommendation to the Governing Board, which was drafted in accordance with the procedure explained during the previous Board meeting. He proposed for the Board to take a decision on this point only after the conclusion of the Siemens-Hacon case.

Next steps

The Governing Board (Founding Members) took note of the information provided. The final decision on this topic will be taken once the membership issue has been finally resolved.

9. AOB

The SRG Chairperson also briefly presented the SEESARI initiative (presentation attached) and proposed a possible a MoU on a strategic partnership with S2R, with the aim to enhance cooperation in railway related matters in the south-east Europe. The topic had already been presented and discussed in the last meeting of the SRG. The members of the Board highlighted the importance of the area and welcomed the initiative, however expressed certain concerns whether such a cooperation could have a long term perspective and ensure concrete commitment from the SEESARI side. It was agreed to look further into the issue once concrete areas of common interest can be identified

The Governing Board cordially thanked Mr Jose Carlos CLEMENTE (EUROC) for his contribution to the deliberations of the Board as this was his last meeting of the Board due to change of duties.

INDICATIVE LISTS OF DOCUMENTS TO BE ADOPTED AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING OR BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE

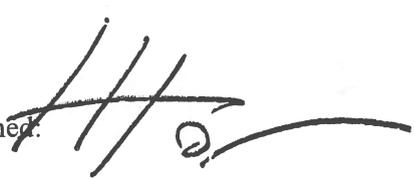
- Amendment of the AWP 2018
- Membership of the S2R JU Governing Board
- Outcome of the invitation to the Associated Members

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings of the Governing Board are tentatively scheduled on:

- 23 March 2018
- 29 June 2018
- 8 November 2018

Done in Brussels on 13 December 2017

Signed: 

Henrik HOLEI

Chairman of the Governing Board

Annex 1- List of Actions

Action	Responsible	Deadline/status
Written procedure for the amendment of the AWP2018	S2R ED	Before Christmas break
Comments on the Action Plan (see agenda item 6) and proposals for the future of S2R by the end of January 2018	Industry members	By end of January 2018
Finalisation of the legal analysis on membership	S2R ED	By the next GB meeting on 23 March 2018
Final recommendation following the invitation to the Associated Members	S2R ED	By the next GB meeting on 23 March 2018