



Seventh meeting of the Shift2Rail States Representatives Group

20 September 2017
White Atrium building, meeting room 2
Avenue de la Toison d'Or 56-60, Brussels 9:30-13:30

Final minutes

10:00 – 10:15	1. Introduction
	<p>The meeting was chaired by Mr Haltuf, Chairperson of the SRG. The Chairman welcomed the participants and in particular those representatives who participated for the first time, i.e. AL, CH and CY. The respective representatives briefly introduced themselves and highlighted the interest of their countries in the deliberations of the SRG.</p> <p>The Chairperson noted the large number of members, who asked to be excused only a few days before the meeting. He explained that the meetings of the SRG are announced well in advance and appropriate reminders are sent in order to ensure proper participation in the deliberations and invited the members to ensure their presence in the next meetings, even by means of teleconference or to arrange for their replacement.</p> <p>Mr Carlo Borghini, S2R JU's Executive Director, supported the Chairman noting that the SRG is a key partner of S2R and should be even more actively participating in the S2R activities.</p> <p>A list of participants is attached.</p>
10:15– 10:20	2. Approval of the meeting agenda and minutes of previous meeting
	<p>The SRG members agreed on the provisional agenda, which had been circulated on 2 August 2017 (document attached, as updated on 14 September 2017) and they all signed a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and confidentiality.</p>

	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved (document attached). It was noted that, following the agreement of the SRG members during the last meeting, the minutes of all SRG meetings are available in the S2R website (https://shift2rail.org/about-shift2rail/structure-of-shift2rail-initiative/states-representatives-group/).</p>
<p>10:20 – 10:40</p>	<p>3. State of play</p>
	<p>The Executive Director, presented the latest developments related to the S2R activities including a short summary of the next steps (presentation attached).</p> <p>He informed the members of the SRG about the outcome of the 2017 calls for proposals and he highlighted the good quality of the proposals received, which was also reflected in the high scores given to the proposals by the independent evaluators. The JU has accelerated the Grant Agreement (GA) preparation and already 14 out of the 17 GAs have been signed and the respective projects have started activities as of 1 September. The remaining projects are expected to conclude the process shortly. BE and NL requested additional information on the applicants and asked the JU for a complete list of participants in all the submitted proposals, including those which were not retained for funding. The Executive Director took note of the request in order to explore whether such disclosure of information is according to the applicable rules (note: the requested information was communicated to all SRG members, on 26 September (Ref.: S2RJU2017D0522) on the basis of Article 14.6 of the S2R Statutes and under Article 10 (Confidentiality) of the SRG rules of procedures).</p> <p>The Executive Director also informed the SRG about the <i>“Invitation to S2R JU Associated Members to submit an answer in view of the realignment of their activities and additional commitment to the S2R Programme”</i>. He explained that in accordance with Article 17(1)b of the S2R Statutes an amount of EUR 5.6 million remains to be allocated to the Associated Members and that the GB has mandated the Executive Director to establish the necessary process to allocate this amount, ensuring transparency and equal treatment. In this context the above-mentioned invitation has been sent to the S2R Associated Members and has been made public through the S2R website. In addition, two webinars have been organised with significant participation in order to attract more railway operators, especially from the urban railway segment and in particular on topics related to Innovation Programmes 2 and 4. The proposals submitted so far have already covered three times the available budget. The deadline for applications expires on 25 September, however the JU is considering to extend the deadline following several requests (note: the deadline was extended up to 9 October and the SRG members were informed on 22 September).</p> <p>Concerning the interim evaluation of the S2R JU, the Executive Director noted that the Independent Experts’ report was made available for comments to the S2R industrial members and that this exercise has been conceived as an opportunity for improvement, also in view of R&I activities in the field of railway beyond 2020. Despite the short period under evaluation, actually only eight months after the JU’s autonomy, the overall evaluation of the JU is positive, taking into account the fact that within a relatively short period, around 50% of the programme’s resources have already been committed. The Executive Director informed the SRG members that on 24 and 25 October 2017, the Joint Undertakings and Joint Technology Initiatives of the European Union will hold an event titled ‘Innovation in Action’ at the European</p>

	<p>Parliament in Strasbourg. This event will present the progress achieved, including their mid-term evaluation assessment performed by the Commission Services with the support of independent experts. The executive Director invited all members of the SRG to participate in this event, which is considered of particular importance for the post 2020 R&I activities of the EU.</p>
10:40 – 11:15	4. ERRAC Presentation
	<p>Mr Nicolas Furio, Secretary of ERRAC presented an overview (presentation attached) of the ERRAC ongoing activities, giving emphasis on the current restructuring as well as on the possibilities for cooperation between the SRG and the ERRAC Member States Permanent Action Group (PAG), which has been inactive since 2015. He explained that there are currently three Working Groups (WG), which are open to all ERRAC stakeholders. WG1 is responsible of clarifying the strategy for rail for R+D+I (ERRAC 2050 Vision), WG2 is responsible of the monitoring of the projects involving ERRAC (e.g. SETRIS) and WG3 is in charge of ensuring ERRAC Communication. The ERRAC WG1 is currently working on the long term vision, which will be a high level document, aiming at presenting the rail sector R&I strategy by 2050, considering the rail sector challenges and the global trends. This vision will be ready by end of October 2017 and will be presented at the next ERRAC Plenary on 23 November 2017. Once approved, the document will be distributed to the SRG members through S2R.</p> <p>On questions received by SRG members (PL, NL, BE, AT, CH, CZ) Mr Furio clarified that the cooperation between the two groups could take the form of combined meetings. Although the focus of the two groups may be different, this could contribute to better alignment of the vision and priorities (e.g. intermodality as raised by NL and CH) at European and national level at the long term.</p> <p>The Commission referred to the broader scale of vision of ERRAC, compared to S2R and highlighted the need for a clear identification of roles as well as the expectations from the Member States, in case of cooperation between the two.</p> <p>The Executive Director noted that ERRAC's long term vision goes beyond the S2R mandate and both ERRAC and S2R share a similar approach as they consider the railway as the backbone for mobility and their aim is to improve the railway as a system capable to support intermodality and multimodality in a sustainable manner. On a question raised by PL about the cooperation of the S2R User Requirements Implementation and Deployment WG with ERRAC, he noted that many individual projects consult their own user requirements groups, which does not lead to a coordinated result and that the approach on this matter should be revised.</p> <p>The SRG concluded that a stronger cooperation with ERRAC would be beneficial provided that the appropriate procedures are established.</p>
11:15 – 11:30	5. ANNUAL WORK PLAN (AWP) 2018
	<p>The Chairperson presented an overview (presentation attached) of the SRG comments as discussed in the previous meeting. On the basis of the new version of the AWP 2018, as distributed to the SRG members on 19 September, the SRG concluded on a favourable opinion, pending the final approval by the GB. The SRG</p>

	<p>highlighted the need for synergies with the overall H2020 priorities as well as with the lighthouse projects and stressed the importance of digitalization, automation and cyber security as topics of the utmost importance. The SRG also prioritises precise description of the call and evaluation criteria as it leads to the highest as possible level of innovation.</p> <p>The Executive Director thanks the SRG members and informed them that for the members' projects the lump-sum approach may be tested.</p>
11:30 – 12:00	6. Preparation of Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2019
	<p>The Executive Director stressed the need for the SRG to be even more actively involved in the planning of the S2R activities. He noted the already proposed subjects by NL (noise, environment), AT (PI (digitalisation, modularization)) and DK (ERTMS) and encouraged all members to submit ideas and proposals for R&I priorities.</p> <p>The Executive Director briefly explained the timetable for the adoption of the AWP 2019, mentioning that the first draft needs to be submitted by the end of January 2018 (for the "preliminary draft budget"), then in spring 2018 the SRG will be consulted on the text including the topics definition. An elaborated draft AWP2019 will be ready before the summer and it will be finalized in early autumn.</p> <p>The Chairperson informed that there is already an agreement by NL, DE and CZ for proposing a demonstrator on ATO (IP2) as well as ideas by CZ, AT, CH and IT on a demonstrator in IP4, which will be discussed within the next months. He invited the members to submit more proposals.</p> <p>It was agreed that the members will submit to the Chairperson their proposals by the end of December 2017.</p>
12:00 – 12:20	7. MAAP review
	<p>The Executive Director presented the latest version of the MAAP – part A (distributed to the SRG members on 14 September) giving emphasis to the 12 capabilities and the 9 pillars that support the S2R vision (presentation attached).</p> <p>In particular, AT, SE and PL intervened expressing strong appreciation for the document and noted the improved structure and content of the document. AT asked for more emphasis to be given on the concepts of digitalisation and combined transport as well as (together with DK) to the need for enhanced competitiveness of the sector (especially ATO). NO noted that the comparative environmental advantage of railways is diminishing, given that other modes constantly reduce their environmental footprint.</p> <p>The Executive Director took note of the comments in view of the finalisation of the document. He highlighted the need for co-modality vs competition as well as the possibilities for synergies (e.g. energy from railway braking system to be used for the charge of electric cars). In reply to a question by PL he noted that the MAAP is not</p>

	<p>conceived to tackle S2R 2.0 but to clarify and strongly support its business case demonstrating how R&I will deliver the future railway systems.</p> <p>The SRG members were invited to submit additional comments, if any, by 3 October 2017 at the latest.</p>
12:20 – 12:40	8. Seconded National Experts (SNEs) and/or National Experts in Professional Training
	<p>The Executive Director explained that in accordance with GB Decision No 20/2016, (communicated to the SRG on 19 July 2017) the S2R JU may have recourse to Seconded National Experts (SNEs) and/or National Experts in Professional Training (NEPTs). He explained that the option of NEPTs appears more appealing in terms of resources and flexibility and invited the members to propose possible candidates who could benefit from a short term (around 5 months) involvement in the actual work of the JU. The desired profile of candidates should be an experience up to 5 years in the domain and the ability to work in multinational environment, sharing skills and competences. AL, CY and CZ stated their support to the idea. CY noted that the option of SNE may be easier for the countries, while CZ noted that SNEs/NEPTs could then continue their research activities (e.g. PhD).</p>
12:40 – 13:00	9. Establishment of the MoU with regions and possible demos (CS JU model)
	<p>The Executive Director briefly presented the initiative of the Clean Sky JU, which aims at combining national R&I activities with activities of the JU, resulting (e.g.) in additional resources for funding of demonstrators. Such a concept could facilitate the promotion of interoperability or other concepts in the field of railways.</p> <p>UK and CZ fully supported the concept. UK noted that such an initiative can maximise the benefits for both the S2R and the regions involved, in an effective, result-oriented approach. CZ informed that the MoU template is available at the CS website and that 17 such MoUs have been signed so far between CS and Member States/regions, including CZ. AL and CY also expressed their interest (especially in demonstration activities), while NL was rather sceptical as the results and real benefits from such CS JU initiative are not clear.</p> <p>The Chairperson also briefly presented the SEESARI initiative (presentation attached) and proposed a possible a MoU on a strategic partnership with S2R. This action will be presented at the S2R GB meeting on October 27 for a discussion and possible next steps.</p>
13:00 – 13:15	10. AoB
	<p><u>Candidates for the Scientific Committee:</u></p> <p>The Chairperson referred to the call for a new S2R JU Scientific Committee member and noted that in accordance with Article 13(3) of the S2R Statutes of the S2R JU, the SRG may make recommendations of possible candidates. In this context he presented the candidacy of Dr. Pavel Foltin (CZ), whose CV and motivation letter was distributed to the SRG on 14 September (note: PT announced the withdrawal of the Portuguese</p>

	<p>candidate, whose CV was also distributed.) UK also proposed to support the candidacy of prof. Klaus Moessner.</p> <p>The SRG supported the above mentioned candidates, without excluding those not having the possibility to be presented at the meeting.</p> <p>The deadline for submitting applications was extended to 29 October 2017 and the SRG members were informed on 26 September (Ref: S2RJU2017D0523).</p> <p><u>Next meeting:</u></p> <p>AT presented in detail (presentation attached) its proposal for the next SRG meeting to take place in Vienna, on 18 April 2018, combined with the TRA conference, which is scheduled on 16-19 April 2018. The meeting will be combined with an onsite visit (Climate Wind Tunnel, and hydrogen locomotive in a terminal South of Vienna and/or new Vienna Central Station)and a joint dinner.</p>
--	---

Actions for the members:

Members are invited to send their input for the AWP 2019, by 31 December to the Chairperson (miroslav.haltuf@hcomp.eu) and copy to the JU (Georgios.Patris@shift2rail.europa.eu).