

Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU)

16th FORMAL MEETING OF THE S2R JU GOVERNING BOARD

BRUSSELS, 23 March 2018, 09:30 – 13h45

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)
	Signe RATSO, Deputy Director General, DG RTD	Co-Chair (Member)
	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
	Jean-Francois AGUINAGA, DG RTD	Observer
	Agnieszka ZAPLATKA, DG RTD	Observer
ALSTOM	Nicolas CASTRES SAINT MARTIN	Member
ANSALDO STS	Nadia MAZZINO	Member

AZD Praha	Michal PAVEL	Alternate Member
BOMBARDIER TRANSPORTATION	Richard FRENCH	Member
CAF	José GORTAZAR	Member
	Imanol ITURIOZ	Observer
DEUTSCHE BAHN	Ralf MARXEN	Alternate Member
EUROC	Thomas PETRASCHEK	Alternate Member
HACON	Rolf GOOSSMANN	Alternate Member
INDRA	Javier Rivilla LIZANO	Alternate Member (remotely)
KNORR - BREMSE	Johannes GRAEBER	Member
NETWORK RAIL (Industrial Spokesperson)	Andy DOHERTY	Member
SIEMENS	Jürgen SCHLAHT	Alternate Member
SMART DEMAIN CONSORTIUM	Henk SAMSON	Member
SMARTRACON CONSORTIUM	Meyer ZU HORSTE	Member
	Jaizki MENDIZABAL	Alternate Member
SNCF	Carole DESNOST	Member
THALES	Yves PERREAL	Alternate Member
TRAFIKVERKET	Bo OLSSON	Member
VVAC+	Erik STOCKER	Alternate Member

European Railway Agency	Ny Tiana TOURNIER	Observer
Chairperson of the States Representative Group	Miroslav HALTUF	Observer
Chairperson of the Scientific Committee	Sebastian STICHEL	Observer
S2R JU	Carlo M BORGHINI	Executive Director
	Giorgio TRAVAINI	Observer
	Vincent DECLERFAYT	Observer
	Isaac GONSALEZ GARCIA	Observer
	Valerie LORGE	Secretariat

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

FAIVELEY TRANSPORT	Thierry MONTAINE	Observer
KAPSCH	Michael MIKULANDRA	Observer
MERMEC	Antonella SEMERANO	Observer
CFW	Roland BÄNSCH	Observer

LIST OF DECISIONS:

The following decisions were taken by the Board:

1. Decision n° 02/2018: Annual appraisal, probationary and management trial period of the Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking.
2. Decision n° 03/2018: Rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests of the staff members of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking.
3. Decision n° 04/2018: Mandate to the Executive Director to request the Commission's agreement to the non-application of general implementing rules of the Staff regulations.
4. Decision n° 05/2018: Implementing rules on temporary occupation of management posts.
5. Decision n° 06/2018: Framework for Learning and Development.
6. Decision n° 07/2018: Rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests applicable to the bodies of Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking.
7. Decision n° 09/2018: Outcome of the 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. Annex will not be available for disclosure.
8. Decision n° 08/2018: Action plan in response to the recommendations of the interim evaluation of the S2R JU. To be adopted by written procedure.
9. A decision by written procedure will be launched with regard to the status of HaCon Membership as from 23/03/2018.

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSIONS:

INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed the participants to the sixteenth meeting of the Governing Board of the S2R JU and introduced the new Deputy Director General of DG RTD, Ms. Signe Ratso. The Chair cordially thanked Mr. José Gortazar (CAF) for his contribution to the deliberations of the Board as this was his last meeting of the Board due to change of duties, and announced his replacement by Mr. Imanol Iturioz. Mr. Aitor Galarza continues as CAF alternate member.

The Executive Director informed participants of the departure of Mr. Georgios Patris from the S2R JU. Ms. Valerie Lorgé will ensure the Governing Board Secretariat, together with Mr Isaac Gonzalez Garcia.

The Chair briefly presented the items on the Agenda and invited the participants to comment on the minutes of the fifteenth Governing Board meeting.

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 - DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BASED ON THE AGENDA ITEMS (THE FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE MEETING ROOM)	09:30
2. INFORMATION FROM THE COMMISSION	
3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON S2R JU ACTIVITIES	
ITEMS FOR DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD	
4. HACON MEMBERSHIP OF THE S2R JU GOVERNING BOARD	10:00
5. OUTCOME OF THE INVITATION TO THE AMS	10:30
6. ANNUAL APPRAISAL, PROBATIONARY AND MANAGEMENT TRIAL PERIOD OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE S2R JU	11:00
7. RULES ON THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS OF THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE S2R JU	
8. MANDATE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REQUEST THE COMMISSION'S AGREEMENT TO THE NON-APPLICATION OF GENERAL IMPLEMENTING RULES OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS	
9. IMPLEMENTING RULES ON TEMPORARY OCCUPATION OF MANAGEMENT POSTS	
10. FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT	

11. RULES ON THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS APPLICABLE TO THE BODIES OF THE S2R JU	11:10
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD	
12. AAR 2017 and report on IKOP and IKAA	11:45
13. Provisional Annual Accounts 2017	12:00
14. MAAP Part B	12:15
15. AWP 2019: publication of the draft	12:30
16. IP3 presentation on testing facilities	12:45
17. KPI status	13:00
18. SEESARI/S2R JU collaboration	13:15
19. Scientific Committee: new structure and Conflict of Interest	13:30
20. Consortium CFW: WBN insolvency	13:45
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
21. AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION OF THE S2R JU ▪ DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING(S) 	14:00

All participants signed a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and of confidentiality. Considering that HaCon and Siemens had a risk of Conflict of Interest concerning Item 4, and the Associated members had a risk of conflict of interest concerning item 5, the Chair proposed to deal with these items in the absence of their respective representatives. 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 provided an overview of the on-going preparatory process for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. The Commission Communication on the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework is expected to be adopted on 2nd May 2018. The accompanying legislative proposals will not enter in specific details but, for example, will only include criteria for partnerships, without providing details on the areas nor forms of partnerships. Exact formulation and programming will therefore be defined at a later stage. The Chair highlighted the importance of lessons learned from the mid-term reviews of JUs and input on KPIs into the process and in negotiations with key stakeholders. The Chair assured the members of the Board that

whilst the exact form of the JUs is still to be shaped, their prospective existence is not put into question. Finally, the Chair, answering the Chairperson of the States Representatives Group question on how participation in this process could be ensured, highlighted the Open Public Consultation on the Multiannual Financial Framework organized in Strategic Clusters by the Secretariat General (closed on 8 March 2018) and the ERRAC Working Group.

The Executive Director brought to the attention of the members of the Board the organization of an event in the form of a dialogue, in Brussels on 19th June 2018 to kick-starting the public discussion on the future of rail R&I beyond 2020, “S2R: the future of rail research and innovation”.

3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON S2R JU ACTIVITIES

The Executive Director underlined four key points regarding the functioning of the S2R JU.

Regarding programme implementation, the IP Steering Committees took place in the week of 19-23 March. Given the increased needs of the partnership and in light of the heavy workload of the TD Leaders and IP Coordinators (Lighthouse projects, 2015-2017 projects, preparation of 2018 projects as well as the horizontal activities of the MAAP review and the KPIs), the Executive Director requested support at company and Governing Board levels. A strategic view is needed to support the implementation of the programmes in order to deliver the expected results. The Governing Board took note of the information provided. The Chair and the Industrial Spokesperson suggested adopting a staged approach by adjusting the dates for the MAAP review and KPI process that was agreed by the Board Members.

Concerning the preparation of the Annual Work Plan 2019, the Executive Director stressed that expertise needs to be mobilized outside each individual IP. He highlighted the example of ATO, where IP5 needs to leverage the expertise of IP1 and IP2 resources. The Executive Director suggested a Working Group of the Governing Board be convened to discuss the draft Annual Work Plan before the final draft is submitted to the Governing Board meeting in November.

The Executive Director underlined that the current preliminary draft of the AWP 2019 is based on expected level of resources provided by the Budgetary Authorities of EUR 80 Million circa, which includes an internal S2R JU transfer of administrative credits. This is already above the initial multi-annual planning but below the objective to anticipate to 2019 activities planned only as from 2020. Activities of some open calls had to be reduced and some call for members had to be adjusted. During the next months, together with the Members and IPs, the JU will further adjust the initial budget allocations taking into account current ongoing projects results and priorities. The Industrial

Spokesperson emphasized the open call for IP3 of 750,000 Euros, stressing that it could potentially deter participants. He considered that a rebalancing would be necessary, while bearing in mind that delaying the Open Call process would likely generate programme conflict issues. In this respect, following the request of the Executive Director, the Governing Board approved to hold a meeting after Easter in order to discuss the budget allocation of the Annual Work Plan 2019, looking also for a possible request to the Budgetary Authorities for a frontload from the European Commission.

The Executive Director also mentioned the SEESARI and S2R JU Cooperation Agreement and the Agreement with the Czech Republic, discussed under item 19. In this respect, the Board Members are requested to submit any comments to the draft SEESARI Cooperation Agreement not later than 18 April.

4. HACON MEMBERSHIP OF THE S2R JU GOVERNING BOARD

Considering that HaCon and Siemens had a risk of conflict of interest with regard to this item, the Chair requested both representatives to leave the meeting.

The Executive Director briefly recalled, as discussed in the Governing Board meetings of October and December 2017 that HaCon became a subsidiary of Siemens in June 2017. The Chair presented the Commission position. As there are currently no specific provisions in the legal framework addressing this situation, the legal interpretation put forward by the Commission has been based on the definition of an affiliated entity in the H2020 Rules of Participation, the eligibility conditions to become an Associated Member of the S2R JU established in the 2015 Call and the provisions on the allocation of Union funding between founding members, associated members and open calls established in the S2R Regulation. Considering all these elements together, the Commission concluded that membership and participation in S2R creates perpetual rights and obligations, i.e. the eligibility conditions legitimizing the status of associated membership at the moment of the call for expression of interest to become Associated Member should be fulfilled throughout the whole membership. As a consequence, the membership of HaCon to the S2R JU should be terminated. Adherence to this legal interpretation limiting reputational risk for the JU appears particularly important at a time when openness and support are needed in view of the continuation of S2R JU.

As no draft decision was made available by the JU neither in due time before the meeting nor during the meeting itself, subsequently, the Commission proposed and the Governing Board agreed to adopt a formal decision by written procedure acting that as of 23rd March 2018, HaCon membership in the S2R JU and to the S2R JU Governing Board representation shall be terminated with no retroactive effect, including ongoing rights and obligations acquired before such a date and ending after the membership termination.

In parallel, mitigating actions are suggested to be implemented with the support of the S2R JU in order to ensure the continued delivery of the S2R JU Programme, in particular in IP4, where HaCon's participation was key, as well as in other IPs such as IP2.

At the end of the *huis clos* proceedings, the Chair informed HaCon and Siemens the decision of the Governing Board on the termination of HaCon membership in the S2R JU. Following a request for clarification from HaCon, the Executive Director stated that all running projects signed before 23rd March 2018 would remain valid in terms of Grant Agreements. Therefore, the ongoing activities part of the current grant agreements will be accounted for against the HaCon budget and Membership Agreement ceilings.

It should be noted, that after the discussion on point 5 took place, HaCon and Siemens representatives requested to the Chair to note their disagreement with the Decision of the Governing Board and reserved their right to bring the relevant actions they deem appropriate. The Chair took due note of the representatives' statements.

Next steps/Decision

The JU shall launch a written procedure for Decision to formalize the termination of HaCon S2R membership as from 23rd March 2018. Once adopted, this decision shall be notified by the Executive Director to HaCon and Siemens.

5. OUTCOME OF THE INVITATION TO THE AMs

The Associated Members representatives in the Governing Board or observers were requested to leave the meeting.

The Executive Director recalled that the report on the outcome on the Invitation to the AMs was presented to the members of the Board during the GB meeting of December 2017.

As a result of the presentation in the Governing Board of December 2017, the Executive Director realized that there was no appetite, independently from the decision of the Governing Board on the status of HaCon, to allocate additional resources to HaCon increasing the risks associated to maintaining HaCon with the AM status. As a consequence, considering the coordinated answers to the Invitation individually submitted by HaCon, Amadeus and Indra, the Executive Director held new negotiations with HaCon and Amadeus in particular which resulted in rejecting the reduction of Amadeus activities to the JU for the part that would have been taken over by HaCon; this resulted also in rejecting HaCon request for increased activities. During the same negotiations, the two parties mentioned also the possibility to work together in the project, e.g. HaCon as linked third party of Amadeus taking into

consideration their collaboration beyond the JU activities; nevertheless, this decision is beyond the remit of the JU. The Executive Director presented to the Governing Board the outcome of the Invitation and its proposals for the adoption of the Governing Board.

The Governing Board members agreed to adopt the report on the invitation to the AMs.

Subsequently, the corresponding amendments to the membership agreements will be adopted by Governing Board Decision, in principle before September 2018. As the Decision on the outcome of the invitation to AMs will be notified collectively on 23rd March 2018, the new amounts can therefore already be taken into consideration in the Members answer to the S2R JU calls, including the current proposals under preparation for the 2018 Call.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted Decision n° 09/2018 on the ‘Outcome of the 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. Annex will not be available for disclosure.

Note: Concerning items 6 to 10, draft decisions were distributed and amended based on ex-ante agreement and on the Commission’s model decisions.

6. ANNUAL APPRAISAL PROBATIONARY AND MANAGEMENT TRIAL PERIOD OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE S2R JU

The Executive Director briefly explained that this document is based on a Commission model decision adopted by all JUs.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted Decision n° 02/2018 on Annual appraisal, probationary and management trial period of the Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking.

7. RULES ON THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE S2R JU

The Executive Director briefly explained that this document is a Commission model decision adopted by all JUs.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted Decision n° 03/2018: Rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests of the staff members of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking.

8. MANDATE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REQUEST THE COMMISSION'S AGREEMENT TO THE NON-APPLICATION OF GENERAL IMPLEMENTING RULES OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS

The Executive Director briefly explained the S2R JU request to the Commission to derogate (opt-out) to the General Implementing Rules of the Staff Regulations for Contract staff posts. A model decision on contract staff is being prepared by DG Human Resources of the European Commission. As adoption of this decision by analogy might create a situation of legal uncertainty, it is therefore advisable to wait for the publication of the new model decision suited for Agencies/JUs.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted Decision n° 04/2018: Mandate to the Executive Director to request the Commission's agreement to the non-application of general implementing rules of the Staff regulations.

9. IMPLEMENTING RULES ON TEMPORARY OCCUPATION OF MANAGEMENT POSTS

The Executive Director briefly explained this Decision recognizing the possibility for ad interim posts to receive allowances.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted Decision n° 05/2018: Implementing rules on temporary occupation of management posts.

10. FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Director briefly explained that this document is based on a Commission model decision adopted by all JUs.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted Decision n° 06/2018: Framework for Learning and Development.

11. RULES ON THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST APPLICABLE TO THE BODIES OF THE S2R JU

The Executive Director clarified that the decision applies only to the members of S2R JU bodies other than Union staff members because the latter are covered (in S2R JU) by the EU staff regulation. The Executive Director added that the rules on conflict of interest applicable to the bodies of the S2R JU represent an overall umbrella decision that the Governing Board is requested to adopt in accordance with the S2R JU Regulation. Each S2R JU body maintains its own rules of procedure under the overarching framework of this umbrella decision. The draft model decision was verified by the Commission and S2R JU legal services.

Decision

The Governing Board adopted Decision n° 07/2018: Rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests applicable to the bodies of Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking.

12. AAR 2017 AND REPORT ON IKOP AND IKAA

The draft AAR 2017, which includes the report on IKOP and IKAA, was sent to the Governing Board in view of the preparation of the opinion that shall accompany the final version of the document for the Budgetary Authorities to be sent out by 1st of July 2018 at the latest. The AAR 2017 should be adopted formally at the next Governing Board meeting of June 2018.

The Executive Director highlighted that, for the first time, the AAR reports on the progress of the different TDs to show the results achieved. The AAR 2017 also answers the recommendations from the draft decision of the European Parliament's on the 2016 Discharge. The European Parliament requires the Executive Director to report on the anti-fraud risk assessment, underlined the improvements in the work of the S2R JU and the need to promote its activities and success stories. The European Parliament invited the S2R JU to look into the possible use of other funds for the future and establish relevant collaborations with the different regions of Europe. The Executive Director confirmed that the European Parliament recommendations have been adequately reflected in the AAR; SEESARI and the current discussions with Czech Republic on possible cooperation agreements are in the direction to meet the Parliament expectations as it has been done by CleanSky JU and others.

Regarding the report on IKOP and IKAA, the Executive Director explained that the report was communicated to S2R JU States Representatives Group in February. He indicated that the report highlights the Members contributions certified which will be accounted for in the S2R JU Net Assets. Concerning IKAA, the target of 120 million euros for the whole programme has almost been already reached.

Next steps

The AAR 2017 should be adopted formally at the next Governing Board meeting of June 2018, accompanied by the Governing Board opinion.

14. PROVISIONAL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2017

The S2R JU final accounts have been audited by the S2R JU External Auditor and will receive an opinion of the European Court of Auditors. The external audit has been finalised, although a second step may take place once the final accounts will be ready; the final report for is expected on time for the submission of the AAR and Final Accounts to the Budgetary Authorities.

In response to questions from Industrial Spokespersons, the Executive Director further clarified that if an error rate superior to 2% of overall expenditure, the European Court of Auditors may decide to qualify accounts of the JU with possible direct consequences on the Discharge (the initial estimates from the CSC on the net error rate for all H2020 is at 2,9%). The introduction of the lump sum approach in this respect will allow for enhanced focus on results. It was agreed that a document clarifying the difference in Grant Agreements with and without the lump sum approach will be shared with members.

Next steps

The S2R JU Executive Director will send to the Governing Board members the European Parliament Report on the on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the S2R JU for the financial year 2016, submitted to the Plenary on 22 March 2018.

15. MAAP PART B

The on-going review of the MAAP was presented by the S2R JU Head of Research and Innovation (please refer to the presentation).

Final adoption of the MAAP new Part B by the GB was planned in April. Appropriate input was received to date by most of the IPs, although significant delays occurred within IP2, which requested a deadline extension for their initial input until mid-May.

In response to the Chair's question on communicating the MAAP, it was clarified that part A of the MAAP serves as the basis for communications efforts with external stakeholders, in particular with the European Parliament, as it describes the underlying concepts, achievements and socio economic and environmental impacts, as well as the alignment with EU policy priorities, i.e. decarbonisation, digitalisation, growth and innovation.

The Industrial Spokespersons highlighted that this approach shows the consistency of all Membership Agreements, and that efforts must be further deployed to ensure tangible synergies - so as not to jeopardize the actual deliveries of IPs, and to agree on common interfaces.

The Chair expressed concern on the actual refocusing of part A to address strategic priorities, as well as regarding the impact on the workload and timeline. The Executive Director reaffirmed the commitment that the current MAAP review is targeted precisely on refocusing S2R activities at a critical juncture of the programme, while taking into account on-going legal commitments and results, to bring them fully in line with the expectations enshrined in part A of the MAAP. He highlighted this by presenting the example of synergies with ATO, which require digitalization, telecommunications, breaking and traction systems; building on this, part B should demonstrate that future projects embed these in an integrated manner and *by design*.

The Chair concluded by stressing its full support to this important exercise and its appreciation of the input provided so far, but indicated that setting a further timeline for delivery would be useful.

Next steps

Members of the Board agreed on holding a workshop in April on the MAAP review to provide further orientation before finalization of the document.

16.AWP 2019: PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT

Members of the Board agreed on the publication of the provisional version of the AWP 2019, including the call topics but excluding the detailed figures of the budget lines, pending validation by Commission services. The Governing Board agreed to send the text for publication to the Commission services, and to engage in parallel discussions on the budget 2019 (see point on the report of the Executive Director).

17.IP3 PRESENTATION ON TESTING FACILITIES

Following the observation by the Governing Board in 2017 that the increased TRL in the IP3 topic required the use of infrastructure testing facilities, whilst availability of rail infrastructure testing facilities is limited in Europe and entails significant costs, a request was formulated by the Governing Board to IP3 to analyse available testing facilities in the EU. As a consequence, IP3 undertook a high-level inventory of the following facilities: rail skills centre, track test centre, digital railway twin, wheel-rail test rig, test track and vehicle-track interaction test rig. IP3 actions for the next steps for a 'world class' test facility will involve confirming test facility requirements with key stakeholders, in-depth analysis of existing databases, a feasibility study including financial feasibility, a gap analysis against anticipated demand, reviewing opportunities to upgrade to a higher TRL, and finally refining capital costs and confirming the funding mechanism.

The Industrial Spokesperson emphasized that most test facilities in Europe are around TRL 3-4, with no equivalent to the Transportation Technology Centre (TTC) - owned by the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in Pueblo, Colorado - which was designed specifically with a vision for enhanced capability. It was underlined that the need for these facilities will nevertheless increase, in light of the enhanced needs for digital modelling and numerical simulations. The Executive Director reacted by suggesting the inclusion in the AWP 2019 of a study on a business model for a EU testing facility, looking at the positive experience from the use of the U.S. Transportation Technology Centre (TTC), involving a combination of public and private funding in the post 2020 MFF.

Furthermore, it was suggested that the scope of a testing facility could extend beyond infrastructure components to cover vehicles, and that the geographic coverage of the current inventory should be expanded. The States' representatives group input was requested in this respect.

The Commission (DG RTD) informed the members of the progress on a current Staff Working Document on research facilities opportunities for EU in general – highlighting the issues for the upcoming FP9, and the questionnaire to collect the needs for testing research facilities. Input was requested in this respect.

Next steps

The members of the Board agreed to request the States' Representatives Group to pursue further analysis of existing test facilities, to include vehicle testing facilities and to share the current findings with the Commission services, and to forward DG RTD's questionnaire. The Governing Board of June 2018 will analyse further progress on this issue.

18.KPI STATUS

Mr Meyer ZU HORSTE, in his role of representative of IMPACT-1 presented the progress on the KPI work (please refer to the presentation).

The Chair concluded the discussions by stressing the important nature of this exercise for all JUs to be able to demonstrate and quantify the achievement of the predetermined objectives with a reliable methodology, and to guide the Commission in the orientation of the next generation of S2R. Upon stabilization of the model, implementation will be ensured as from AWP 2019 in the framework of the yearly reporting on the achievement of the overall objectives by the programmes. The Executive Director emphasized the need to stabilize the model addressing the issues and gaps still open with a deadline not later than the summer break.

Next steps

The Governing Board highlighted the crucial nature of this work stream and agreed that in principle, a stable KPI model should be shared at the next Governing Board meeting in June 2018. Mr Meyer ZU HORSTE agreed to discuss internally and report back to the Executive Director on the next steps and timeline.

19.SEESARI/S2R JU COLLABORATION

Following a meeting held between the S2R Executive Director, the Chairperson of the States Representatives Group and the Chair of SEESARI, areas of common interest were identified and subsequently a high-level cooperation agreement on a strategic partnership between the S2R JU and SEESARI was drafted and shared with the members of the Board on 22nd March, with the aim to enhance cooperation in railway related matters in south-east Europe. Following feedback from the members of the Board, the S2R JU aims to sign the MoU during an upcoming event, possibly the TEN-T event in the presence of Commissioner Bulc.

Next steps

The members of the Board welcomed the initiative and agreed to provide comments on the MoU not later than 18 April 2018.

20.SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: NEW STRUCTURE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The next Scientific Committee meeting will be held in Vienna on 16th April. The resignation submitted by two members of the Scientific Committee will be acted upon at the meeting. Suggestions will be put forward for the nomination of the new chair. This will be also the opportunity to resume and accelerated the discussions on the new structure of the Scientific Committee and the possible revision of its Rules of Procedure. The industrial spokesperson asked for clarification on Article 6.2¹ of the GB Decision adopting rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests applicable to the S2R JU bodies. The Executive Director explained that the Article states that when a Governing Board member expresses the view of the S2R JU in public, the member is expected adhere to the S2R view. This does not prevent a Governing Board member from expressing differing views to those of the SR2 JU when he/she expresses himself/herself in his/her personal capacity.

Next steps

The members of the Board agreed that conclusions of the discussions and suggested amendments to the rules of procedure of the Scientific Committee will be reported back at the next Governing Board meeting.

21.CONSORTIUM CFW: WBN INSOLVENCY

The Executive Director informed the members of the Board of a letter of January 2018 from WBN informing of the provisional insolvency proceedings of WBN. Continuation of business operations - including research activities, is confirmed. Nevertheless, the WBN insolvency procedure has an impact on the S2R JU as they are a member of the S2R JU through their participation in the CFW consortium, and as a S2R JU beneficiary of current/future grants agreements. In accordance with the EU Financial Regulation, the H2020 Rules of Participation and the provisions of the Grant Agreement, the S2R JU should take provisional measures to protect the financial interest of the JU until the WBN insolvency procedure is concluded.

The members of the Board thanked the Executive Director for the full transparency and took note of the ongoing contacts between the S2R JU and WBN in the framework of the insolvency proceedings.

¹ Article 6.2 stipulates: « When communicating on a matter on which the S2R JU has taken a view, the GB members shall represent the view of the S2R JU. When communicating on a matter that falls within the remit of the S2R JU, but on which the JU has not taken a view so far, they may give their own personal view, but shall make clear that this does not necessarily represent the official view of S2R JU. »

22.AOB

ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERIM EVALUATION OF THE S2R JU

The Executive Director informed the members of the Board of the upcoming European Court of Auditors' audit on the implementation of the actions included in the Action Plan.

Next steps/Decision

The Governing Board agreed to adopt the Decision n° 08/2018: Action plan in response to the recommendations of the interim evaluation of the S2R JU by written procedure.

The Governing Board cordially thanked Mr José Gortazar (CAF) 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

- Decision n° 08/2018: Action plan in response to the recommendations of the interim evaluation of the S2R JU
- Decision to adopt the termination of HaCon S2R JU Membership as from 23/03/2018.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings of the Governing Board are scheduled on:

- 29 June 2018
- 8 November 2018

Done in Brussels on 23 March 2018

Signed: 

Henrik HOLOLEI
Chairman of the Governing Board