



3rd MEETING OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL SRG

3 June 2022

9h30 – 13h00

1. Introduction

Welcome by the Chairperson and introductory speech from the EC

Declarations of conflict of interest based on the Agenda items

Sarah BITTNER-KRAUTSACK, the Chairperson of the SRG, welcomed the participants to the third meeting of the SRG. She proposed to perform a tour-the-table with a short introduction of the representatives and their organizations.

From the EU institutions' side, the representatives of DG MOVE (Wawrzyniec PERSCHKE) and ERA (Torben HOLVAD) participated in the meeting, as well as the Executive Director of EU-Rail (Carlo BORGHINI), supported by the Secretariat.

On behalf of the Commission, Wawrzyniec PERSCHKE delivered introductory remarks. He pointed to the role of the SRG in liaising between the JU and the MS. He underlined that a broad coordination between stakeholders, exceeding the JU Founding Members, would be needed to deliver changes in railway sector. He stressed that the Commission would prioritize activities leading to the achievement of the Single European Railway Area as well as objectives of the sustainable mobility, for example, through the revision of the TSI, support towards digitalization and automatization of railway, as well as CCS and DAC.

2. Approval of the meeting agenda and previous MoM

The Chairperson introduced the Agenda which was adopted by the SRG.

The participants adopted the minutes of the second meeting.

3. State of Play – Information from the Europe's Rail

Carlo Borghini, the Executive Director of Europe's Rail, provided an overview of the activities of the JU since the last SRG meeting. He pointed to the possibility of resuming in-person meetings in Brussels as from September 2022 (hybrid connection would be provided). He reminded about the SRG meeting at InnoTrans on 22 September 2022 (hybrid connection), with

a dinner planned for 21 September 2022 in Berlin. More detailed information will be circulated closer to the date of event.

In terms of the JU activities, the ED reminded that the deadline for the first JU call for proposals would pass on 23 June 2022. The GB decision approving the ranking list of the selected applicants would be adopted at the GB meeting on 3 August 2022. He stressed that the call for proposals was launched in an open scheme, with no eligibility criteria linked to the JU memberships. As underlined, any entity eligible under the HE rules of participation could participate in the JU activities, including entities from countries in the process for the signature of an Association Agreement to HE, in particular UK entities. The ED informed the SRG that the JU encouraged the Founding Members to integrate in their potential consortia a wide spectrum of participants, exceeding the JU members. He reminded that the JU had no mandatory power to intervene in the process, however, together with the Commission it pushed towards the inclusive and open participation.

The ED informed the SRG members that the GB was also expected to adopt an amendment to the decision on work programme 2022-2024 in order to integrate a text for the second call for proposals to be launched by the JU in September 2022. The second call will cover exploratory research and FA7. He stressed that the second call would provide an additional opportunity for SMEs, research institutions and universities to apply for grants. As underlined, the JU started collecting inputs and ideas for the exploratory research topics (e.g. inputs from the JU Scientific Committee; ERRAC, pitching sessions during the WCRR in Birmingham; communication).

In terms of personnel transition, the ED informed about the completion of the recruitment process for the senior programme managers, SNE and the Head of SP. He also mentioned the JU engagement in the setup of the back office arrangements for JUs, with the Europe's Rail's proposal to cover the role of the BOA accounting.

The ED presented to the SRG the recent developments in the System Pillar. He presented the structure that had been accepted by consensus by the SP Steering Group and would be presented to the GB at its next meeting on 24 June 2022. He stressed that the SRG would have a representative in the SP Steering Group (Chair or Vice-Chair of the SRG, depending on availability). He also updated the Group on the tender procedure for System Pillar to select the experts in three LOTs (*for details, please refer to the presentation*).

Ariane BOEHMER (DE) asked about the TSI revision process and the role of the SP in accelerating the process.

The ED stressed that the success of the SP would rely on the capacity of people to deliver the work and the cooperation with stakeholders. He also confirmed that from the perspective of MS involvement, the TSI procedure would remain the same. As underlined, the work of the SP was expected to facilitate the process and shorten the time of revision.

Theresa BAUER (AT) raised concerns about the openness of participation in the calls. She commented that the non-members did not have the same chance as they were not asked to provide ICAA in their applications.

The ED confirmed that participants non-members of the JU were not requested to provide and/or declare any IKAA in the applications. Only JU Members participating to consortia shall contribute with the IKAA. The ED also confirmed that declaration of IKAA would not affect the eligibility of applicants.

Miroslav HALTUF (Vice-Chair, CZ) commented on the SP. He indicated that some national and international entities raised concerns about the SP structure and its complexity. He suggested to prepare a document with clear description of roles and tasks. He also referred to the companies asking about the potential participation. He also asked about the TSI and change management process. He pointed to the risks that the MS who would feel unsatisfied with the process could opt for exceptions.

In terms of the SP, the ED stressed that the tender procedure was open with no limitations in terms of participation. He clarified that not companies, but experts were asked to contribute to the System Pillar activities.

In terms of TSI, the ED clarified the procedure, describing the role of the EC, JU, and ERA in the process. He also commented on the role of the SP as a channel for the change management. He acknowledged that the risks mentioned by the Vice Chair will require attention in particular in the initial steps of the System Pillar.

Hanna VUORINEN (FI) commented on the call and participation of non-member entities. She stressed that for many non-members, the call would be too complex. She suggested that the JU would provide some assistance in matchmaking for newcomers. She also pointed to the lack of communication from the JU Founding Members' consortia to non-members. She also asked for the JU assistance in this respect.

The ED stressed that the JU could not intervene in the process of application preparations. However, on many occasions the JU and the EC flagged to the JU Founding Members the issues of inclusiveness and participatory approach to the call. The ED confirmed that the Founding Members were informed that the call results would go under the scrutiny of the MS and the EU institutions. He also confirmed that the message would be passed to the Founding Members on 14 June at the Programme Board meeting. In terms of matchmaking, the ED underlined that the JU sessions at the WCRR in Birmingham would provide opportunities for such activities. He invited all interested parties to join the sessions.

On behalf of the Commission, Wawrzyniec PERSCHKE ensured that the Commission would treat the issue of participation in the call with priority. He commented that openness and transparency of the calls would result in credibility of the JU programme.

Andre Bissen (LU) asked about the experts in the SP. He pointed to the transparency in this respect. The ED confirmed that particular attention would be paid to the selection of experts. He stressed that the main objective for experts would be to represent the European network as a whole.

Ariane BOEHMER (DE) stressed the importance of involving the MS and NSAs in the SP work. She pointed to the risk that if the MS would only be included in the end of consultation, they

would be more prone to refuse the SP inputs. She acknowledged the role of the sector in work on specifications, however, she also paid attention to the MS contributions (e.g. financing, safety, strategic support).

The ED endorsed the statement on the MS contribution to the specification and SP work in general. He suggested to consider more structured engagement of the MS in the SP work, for instance, with a structure similar to the SRG-DAC sub-group.

The Chair supported the proposal to set up a dedicated SRG-SP subgroup to regularly inform the MS on the developments in the SP.

Henri VICHARD (FR) stressed out that the level of information would be also important, and all information should be delivered in time that would allow to carefully process the SP inputs. He also suggested to prepare information days for the MS. The Chairperson agreed that transparency in the SP would be critical. She also reminded that the SP Steering Group was attended by the SRG representative. Both Chair and Vice-Chair supported the establishment of a subgroup as suggested by the ED.

Ariane BOEHMER (DE) commented that another reason for an early engagement of the MS in the SP was that the MS had to develop migration plans, settle financial means, and prepare changes in the national legal frameworks in order to support innovations.

→ The Executive Director will discuss internally the possibility of the SRG engagement in the SP. The proposed solution will be presented to the SRG at its next meeting in September 2022.

4. Adoption of the EU-RAIL SRG Rules of Procedure

The Chairperson reminded that the RoP with the latest changes were circulated before the meeting. She opened the floor for the comments. With no further objections, the RoP were adopted.

→ The SRG adopted the Rules of Procedures

5. Discussion points

5a. Coordination and implementation of innovative technologies

5b. From national investments to coordinated and consistent deployment in Europe

The ED underlined that the MAWP and WP would be impact-driven, which provided a major difference with the Shift2Rail Programme. He referred to the role of the SRG in contributing to this objective as stipulated in the SBA. As underlined, the SRG should consider the ways to anticipate that the work delivered by the JU's Innovation and System Pillars would be embedded in the decision-making process at the national level and supported financially if needed. He also

pointed to the role of the SRG in reporting to the JU and other MS on the national measures of dissemination, deployment, and other relevant activities.

The ED shared with the Group the initiative launched by the Clean Aviation for the MS group – creation of a platform for networking between the MS that would allow to monitor the national activities in a structured manner. The objective would be to create synergies between initiatives, as well as discuss the priorities, funding opportunities, migration strategies, etc.

The ED stressed that his intention was to start a debate on the following topics. He invited the MS to rethink the following items and propose solutions. He emphasized the importance of common priorities among the MS.

The Chairperson agreed that the coordination between the MS should result in common objectives. She also pointed out that the MS should inform each other on the content of their programmes (e.g. in which technology).

The Vice-Chairperson agreed and presented the example of DAC as a programme raising concerns from various stakeholders due to the lack of clear information. He stressed the necessity to promote the JU projects as Europe-wide and with benefits for the whole European network.

Henrik STAUBO (NO) commented that planning of national finances would be a time-consuming activity, thus, information should be delivered earlier to the MS. He also suggested to engage more relevant stakeholders in the earlier stage to leave them with sense of ownership and to clearly discuss the benefits with them.

The Chairperson suggested to provide a regular update on the SP developments (permanent point in the Agenda for the SRG meetings).

The Vice-Chair also indicated the necessity for MS to be provided with all relevant deployment plans, not DAC-related only (e.g. on tests results, evaluation of projects).

5c. Update on DAC

The ED provided a summary of the DAC programme and commented on the workshops conducted for the SRG-DAC subgroup on 30 May 2022. The SRG was informed that the second meeting with the consult would be organized to gather more inputs.

Pierluigi COPPOLA (IT) asked for availability of the CBA document.

The ED confirmed that the CBA document would be publicly available once finalized. The document would be also presented to the EDDP Programme Board on 29 June 2022.

5d. Annual Activity Report 2021

The SRG members were reminded that the Annual Activity Report 2021 was distributed to them before the meeting. The Members were requested to deliver their comments (directly to the JU)

by 10 June 2022. The final text would be dispatched to the Governing Board before its meeting on 24 June 2022.

The ED presented the main points of the Annual Activity Report (*for details please refer to the presentation and document*).

→ **The SRG Members are requested to deliver their comments to the Annual Activity Report 2021, if any, by 10 June 2022 (directly to the JU)**

5e. Role of the SRG in the EU-RAIL activities, including the System Pillar

The ED referred to the SBA and reiterated the activities to be performed by the SRG as stipulated in the SB. He discussed the role of the SRG in delivering of the JU programme.

6. Draft summary of output of the SRG small group meetings

The Chairperson thanked all the SRG Members who participated in the small-group sessions prepared by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. She briefly discussed the objectives of the sessions and the level of participation. As indicated, 17 MS and Associated Countries provided their inputs, either in a written form or orally during the meetings.

The detailed answers were available in a form of a concept board (available [under the link](#)) with password provided via email to the SRG Members and the JU. The concept board would remain a “living document” and it could be modified by the Members themselves. In case of such modifications, the SRG Members were asked to flag it to the Chairperson.

Nikolaos ATHANASOPOULOS (GR) suggested that it might be interesting to keep this SRG feedback as a continuous process in order to update both feedback & national initiatives.

Tom WARRAS (FI) thanked for the organization of the small group meetings. He also pointed to the value of dialogue between the MS specifically for those members who did not have national stakeholders among the JU Founding Members.

7. AOB and Closing Remarks

Dates of the next meeting

- 22 September 2022 at InnoTrans (hybrid)
- 9 November 2022 (hybrid)

Action no.	Action	Related Topic	Due date	Action Owner
1	SRG comments on the Annual Activity Report 2021	Agenda item 5d	10 June 2022	SRG