



**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Scientific Committee of Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking**

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| <b>Project</b>       | SC                   | <b>Date/Time</b> | 08 November 2022 |
| <b>Meeting Type:</b> | Scientific Committee | <b>Location:</b> | Virtual meeting  |

| <b>Summary of the Meeting</b> |  |
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| <b>1</b>                      | <b>Introduction</b><br><p>The Chairperson, Professor Angela DI FEBBRARO and the Vice-Chairperson, Juan DE DIOS SANZ BOBI welcomed the participants and thanked them for their attendance in the fourth meeting of the Scientific Committee.</p>  |
| <b>2</b>                      | <b>Approval of the Agenda and previous MoM</b><br><p>The Chairperson introduced the agenda which was adopted. The Chairperson proposed to add to AOB a point concerning the organization of ComplexTrans meeting. The point was added.</p> <p>The minutes of previous meeting were distributed in advance. With no objections raised, the Scientific Committee adopted the minutes.</p> <p>The Chairperson reminded participants to send their declarations of conflict of interest to the JU Secretariat.</p>   |
| <b>3</b>                      | <b>State of play – information from the EUROPE'S RAIL</b><br><p>The Executive Director, Carlo BORGHINI, informed the Scientific Committee about the JU activities that took place since the last meeting in September 2022. The Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking launched the second call for proposals (HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02) for ten topics with a deadline for submission on 14 December 2022. More information on the call topics can be found under the following link: <a href="#">Funding &amp; tenders (europa.eu)</a>. As informed, in 2023 the second call for exploratory research would be launched as an open call, targeting the research community, SMEs, and all interested parties. The JU would consult the Scientific Committee and wider research community (i.e., ERRAC) before the launch in order to enlarge the list of potential topics. The Executive Director also underlined that following the signature of specific contract for LOT2, the System Pillar had already started working with over 220 people involved. The working programme of System Pillar would be a part of the Europe's Rail Work Programme for 2023 (cf. Agenda point no 6).</p> |

#### 4 Call for Expression of Interest on selection of members of the Europe's Rail Scientific Committee

The Executive Director introduced the concept paper on the establishment of the Scientific Steering Group in accordance with the provisions of the Single Basic Act. As underlined, the concept paper was prepared based on the developments in other JUs (i.e., SESAR JU). The concept paper would be shared with the Scientific Committee for their comments after the meeting. The Scientific Committee was asked to deliver the comments and questions, if any, by 18 November 2021.

In terms of establishment of the scientific advice for the JU, the proposal was to establish a permanent Scientific Steering Group, in accordance with Article Article 91(2) of the Single Basic Act, consisting of 12 members selected in an open call for expression of interest. The Scientific Steering Group would perform the tasks described in Article 21(7) of the Single Basic Act. The Members of the future Scientific Steering Group would have a mandate for 4 years, whereas the Chair and Vice-Chair – selected by the Members – for 2 years. After the 4-year period, the Governing Board of the JU would decide either on extension of mandate for the next 4 years, or on the launch of a new call for expression of interest to fully or partially replace Members of the Scientific Steering Group. In addition, a reserve list of 3-4 candidates would be established to replace the acting Members of the Scientific Steering Group on *ad hoc* basis (i.e., in the situation of conflict of interest).

The newly appointed Scientific Steering Group would be obliged to report to the JU Governing Board on its work and provide scientific advice on requested topics (i.e., input to the JU annual activities reports).

In terms of meetings' organization, the meetings would be scheduled at least twice a year (Article 21(6) of the Single Basic Act), upon request of the Chairperson or the Executive Director. The general rule would be to convene meetings virtually, with possibility of in-person meetings in Brussels or other locations. The Members of the Scientific Steering Group would be entitled to reimbursement after attending the meeting in Brussels or other locations.

In terms of selection procedure, the proposal of the Executive Director to the Governing Board would be to launch a formal procurement in 2023. The interested experts would apply by providing letter of application, the CV and declaration of conflict of interest. The candidates may be also proposed by the JU States' Representatives Group. The scope of the expertise, in line with the SBA, should be sufficiently wide to serve the purposes of the JU. Thus, the experts would be selected among the experts with experience in railway and in related areas (i.e., cybersecurity, safety). Indicatively, the Members of the Scientific Steering Group would be requested to be available for the JU for 20 days per year.

Professor Mehmet Turan SÖYLEMEZ asked if the current Scientific Committee Members could submit their applications in the call for expression of interest. The Executive Director explained there were no limitation from the JU side. Unless the Governing Board decided otherwise, the current Members of the Scientific Committee would be eligible to apply. He also reminded that up to establishment of a new Scientific Steering Group, the current Scientific Committee would continue its work (approximately for the first half of 2023).

Professor Peter VERVEST asked about the interaction between the current Scientific Committee and a new structure. The Executive Director explained that the SC Members could be invited to comment on the issues related to tasks of the Scientific Steering Group.

➔ **The concept paper will be shared after the meeting**

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|   | <p>→ <b>The Members of the Scientific Committee are requested to provide their comments and questions, if any, by 18 November 2022 to the JU.</b></p>  |
| 5 | <p><b>Amendment n°3 - Work Programme 2022-2024 including SC advice on IKAA Plan</b></p> <p>The Executive Director introduced the amendment to the Work Programme 2022-2024. He stressed that the Scientific Committee Members had already received the document, under the confidentiality rules, for their comments.</p> <p>The Executive Director informed the Scientific Committee that the amendment to the Work Programme covered two aspects. First, the budget where there had been transferred between the activities in order to launch two new procurement procedures - one on the advise from unions, and other on passenger associations' expertise. Second, the plans of the in-kind contributions for additional activities ("IKAA plans") were inserted in accordance with the provisions of the Single Basic Act and JU Founding Members' letters of commitments. The IKAA plans were not disaggregated by Member due to confidentiality reasons.</p> <p>The Scientific Committee was asked to analyse and provide opinion whether the activities identified by the JU Founding Members in their IKAA plans matched the JU programme and objectives stipulated in the Single Basic Act, the Master Plan, and the working programmes.</p> <p>Professor Peter VERVEST suggested to divide the work between the Members of the Scientific Committee based on the areas of expertise. He also asked about the budgetary commitments and the current arrangements. The Executive Director commented on the budgetary commitments for the topics launched in the first call for proposals. He explained that the resources were dedicated for longer periods of time. Thus, the JU would supervise smaller number of projects but with larger budgets than in the past. He also informed the Scientific Committee that the signature of grant agreements was foreseen by the end of November 2022.</p> <p>→ <b>The Members of the Scientific Committee are requested to provide their scientific opinion on the amendment to WP 2022-2024 by 21 November 2022 to the JU Secretariat.</b></p> |
| 6 | <p><b>Work Programme 2023-2024</b></p> <p>The Executive Director presented the work programme 2023-2024. He commented on the structure of document, its scope and highlighted the part of document that would be of interest for the Scientific Committee Members. He pointed to the part dedicated to call for proposals in exploratory research targeting the scientific and research communities. As stressed, the budget for the call had been increased up to over 19 million EUR.</p> <p>The Executive Director also discussed the working programme for the System Pillar. He invited the Scientific Committee Members to familiarize themselves with this part and provide comments to the JU.</p> <p>Professor Peter VERVEST asked about the testing and compliance in the System Pillar. The Executive Director stressed that not all activities would be performed in the System Pillar. The System Pillar would interface with the Innovation Pillar, and the latter would be responsible for testing. In terms of compliance, the experts in System Pillar could liaise with the ERA on the possibility of proposing new TSI or discuss the need to amend existing TSIs. Professor Peter VERVEST added that testing and compliance should be identified at early stage to avoid the risks. He suggested to include clearly in the tasks of System Pillar Core Group that the Group would interact with relevant stakeholders in areas of testing and compliance. The Executive Director commented that</p>  |

one of the benefits of the System Pillar structure would be ability to early detect potential risks. He discussed the example of communication and the FRMCS development.

Professor Juan DE DIOS SANZ BOBI commented on the interaction with the other domains (i.e., urban transport). The Executive Director stressed that the activities which had not been clearly spelled out were part of the overall system architecture (Task1). In terms of urban transport, he commented that the JU was discussing the possibility to extend the scope of task to urban mobility and analysing the integration of the urban transport in the overall architecture. As stressed, there were no urban operators in the JU, thus, the JU would have to examine the interest of urban operators active in the field in the work of the System Pillar (i.e., UITP).

Professor Klaus MÖSSNER stressed out the importance of certification. He expressed his concern that the certification had been neglected and should be addressed.

Carlo BORGHINI proposed to invite the Members of the System Pillar Core Group to the next meetings of the Scientific Committee. The Core Group would provide a short presentation on the work under System Pillar and answer the questions of the Scientific Committee.

Professor François LACÔTE commented on flagship area 7. He raised his concerns regarding the interest in maglev, magnetic transportation technologies, and hyperloop. He asked for reasons of continuous interest in such topics and asked if there were any new ideas and developments in recent years. He also pointed to the work of the Swiss metro and its failure. The Executive Director commented on the interest of the European Commission in developing the research on hyperloop and maglev. He pointed to the work on the EU regulation on safe and secure environment for hyperloop and the reference to Hyperloop in the proposed revision of the TENT-T legislation. As stressed, the objective of the Commission would be to better understand the proof of concept and the industrial roadmap. He also commented on the developments in other part of the world (i.e., in Japan, China and Korea) and the objective of the European Commission to remain competitive on the market.

**→ The Members of the Scientific Committee are requested to provide their scientific opinion on the WP 2023-2024 by 21 November 2022 to the JU Secretariat.**

## **6 Closing remarks and AoB**

The Executive Director reminded about the General Assembly scheduled for 30 November 2022, after the Governing Board meeting. He invited the Members of the Scientific Committee to participate in the event. The meeting would be convened by virtual means, and the link had already been distributed.

The Chairperson commented that she could be only present until 15h00. She asked the JU to accommodate the agenda to allow her for presentation.

The Scientific Committee discussed the organization of the ComplexTrans meeting. The Executive Director introduced the request for advice and explained the context. The Members shared their initial ideas about the project and decided on the procedure. Two rapporteurs were selected: Professor Jana PIERIEGUD and Professor Juan DE DIOS SANZ BOBI. The representative of ERA, Torben HOLVAD proposed his assistance in the preparation of the final report.

## Annex

| <b>Action nr.</b> | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Related Topic</b> | <b>Due date</b>  | <b>Action Owner</b> |
|-------------------|---|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1</b>          | SC comments on the concept paper on the establishment of the JU Scientific Steering Group | Item 4               | 18 November 2022 | SC                  |
| <b>2</b>          | SC comments on the amendment to the Work Programme 2022-2024 (written procedure)          | Item 5               | 21 November 2022 | SC                  |
| <b>3</b>          | SC comments on the Work Programme 2023-2024 (written procedure)                           | Item 5               | 21 November 2022 | SC                  |