

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

on the commitment expressed by the private members to match a possible increase in the Union contribution to the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking as a result of the association of the United Kingdom to the Horizon Europe Programme

N° 17/2023

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING, (hereafter referred as "EU-RAIL")

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, in particular Articles 62(1), point (c)(iv), 71 and 154,

Having regard to European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 ("Horizon Europe Regulation"), and in particular Article 16(2) and 16(5),

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014 (hereafter the "Single Basic Act" or the "SBA"), as last amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2023/1782 of 25 July 2023, in particular Articles 6(3), 10, 87(1), 88, 89 and annex II,

Having regard to the commitment expressed by the EU-RAIL private founding members listed in Annex II of the SBA,

Whereas:

- (1) The Union financial contribution to the EU-RAIL shall cover administrative and operational costs up to EUR 600 000 000, while the private members shall make a total contribution of at least EUR 600 000 000.

- (2) The amount of the Union contribution to the EU-RAIL may be increased with contributions from third countries associated to Horizon Europe in line with Article 16(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation and provided that the total amount by which the Union contribution is increased is at least matched by the contribution of the private members, or their constituent or affiliated entities in line with Article 10(2) of the SBA.
- (3) On 7 September 2023, the European Commission and the United Kingdom (“UK”) Government reached an agreement in principle on the association of the UK to Horizon Europe, effective as of 1 January 2024. Consequently, the amount of the Union contribution to EU-RAIL may be increased following an increase of the Horizon Europe programme budget with contributions from UK in line with Article 16(2) of the Horizon Europe Regulation.
- (4) On 27 November 2023, the EU-RAIL private members collectively agreed and confirmed to the EU-RAIL Governing Board’s Chairperson their political commitment to match a possible increase in the Union contribution to the EU-RAIL following an increase of the Horizon Europe programme budget with the UK contribution.
- (5) The decision concerning a possible increase in the Union contribution to EU-RAIL and the amount of this possible increase will be taken by the European Commission in accordance with its internal procedures and communicated without delay to EU-RAIL.
- (6) An increase of the contributions to EU-RAIL would be extremely beneficial to the programme overall, accelerating the pace of delivery by the JU towards the twin green and digital transition of Europe. More specifically, crucial activities could be accelerated, for example the work towards Rail Automation (ATO, MB, etc.), Digitalisation (including cybersecurity, AI and predictive maintenance), next generation of Telecommunication, rail Freight performance (e.g., Digital Automated Coupler), demonstration of Hydrogen train/stations as well as exploring new avenues.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Governing Board takes note of the collective political commitment expressed by the EU-RAIL private members, or their constituent or affiliated entities, to increase the amount of their contribution to EU-RAIL by EUR 30 000 000 over the period until 31 December 2031 (i.e. for a total contribution of minimum of EUR 630 million), in case necessary to match a possible increase in the Union financial contribution to EU-RAIL.

The Governing Board also takes note of the expected positive impact of a possible increase in the contributions to EU-RAIL, in terms of accelerating the delivery on the relevant policy objectives and rapidly progressing in key areas.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 11 December 2023

For the Governing Board



Magda KOPCZYNSKA
The Chairperson