



## 6th MEETING OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL SRG

7 June 2023

10:00-13:00

<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>Welcome by the Chairperson and introductory speech from the EC;</p> <p>Declarations of conflict of interest based on the Agenda items</p> <p>The acting Chair of the SRG welcomed the participants to the sixth meeting of the SRG. He thanked participants for their presence.</p>	<p>10:00-10:15</p>
<p><b>2. Approval of the Agenda and previous MoM</b></p> <p>The acting Chair introduced the Agenda which was adopted by the SRG. The participants adopted the revised minutes of the fifth meeting.</p>	<p>10:15-10:20</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State of play – information from the EUROPE'S RAIL</b></li> </ul> <p>The ED a.i. indicated that regarding the SP, an update will be provided during the SRG System Pillar Meeting scheduled on 12 June</p> <p>Regarding the Innovation Pillar, on the S2R Programme Status, he underlined that final demonstrations are scheduled in 2023. There are 6 months of additional delays reported in 2021 due to Covid. The last reconciliation exercise was performed with the Members, to close the projects in 2023. He stated there are 44 projects to close (with Reporting and Payment) or running in 2023</p> <p>The ED a.i. provided participants with an update on the EU-Rail integrated Programme update. He underlined the Grant Agreements of Flagship Projects from the first call were signed in December 2022. They are overall in green status, except for TRANS4M-R, in partial yellow status.</p> <p>Moreover, the ED a.i. updated participants on EU-Rail JU FPs agreed approaches and ongoing processes, <i>inter alia</i>:</p>	<p>10:20-11:30</p>

- Cooperation tool set for all projects; Websites created; FPs reporting template to ED-SIPB agreed;
- Enhanced process for amendments set in place ;
- Tender procedure concluded for FP Management services to the members;
- ICAA reporting guidelines finalised;
- Alignment meetings FP<>FPs and FP<>SP ongoing;
- Transfer of knowledge S2R TDs/WAs results to EU-Rail SP and IP ongoing;
- Tender for the provision of a toolset for Model-Based System Engineering, Conceptual Data Model and Federated Dataspace, cancelled and new process under investigation;
- Preparation for first maturity checkpoints ongoing.

Regarding the call Q4 2023, he stated that the WP2023-2024 amendment decision is scheduled to be adopted at the GB of 23/06 (call published early October), including contributions from SC, SRG and ERRAC and FA1 discussion with Sesar3 JU on a joint call.

Moreover, he indicated that concerning EDDP / DAC, RUs/IMs CTO Council agreed on the need to setup a deployment manager structure, in phases starting from mid-2024. They consider the importance of EU MS backing-up, EC, ERA involvement. In this respect, a position paper/statement will be drafted in Q4 under the supervision of CTO Council and the EDDP.

In addition, the Executive Director a.i. presented the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02. He indicated that on 13 September 2022 the EU-RAIL published the call for proposals, with a deadline of 14 December 2022. An evaluation was carried out according to the *rules on proposal submission and evaluation* laid down in the EU-RAIL Work Programme 2022-2024. The Call Evaluation Report (Annex 1) contains the results of the evaluations, including statistics related to the proposals submitted, results of the technical evaluation, the proposed call ranked list(s) based on independent experts ranking, as well as those proposals which are below the threshold.

He indicated that the total budget for the call is EUR 14,700,000.00. The call covers the ten topics and types of actions. All were covered except for Explr-05. Under the topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2022- FA7-03 (“Hyperloop Industrial Roadmap and pilots”), the submitted proposal was assessed under threshold. He stressed that lessons should be drawn out of it including on the level of participation, in view of the next call.

A total of 22 Countries participated, of which 18 from EU Member States, 3 Associated Countries (Norway, Serbia, Turkey), UK as well as two other third countries (Switzerland and the United States). He concluded by indicating that in terms of participation, applicants were well spread across Member States and Associated

Countries, which largely reflects the status of the rail market. He indicated lower UK participation.

The ED a.i. indicated that the evaluation of proposals was carried out between 16 December and 31 January. The evaluation committee/panel was composed of 14 external experts and an additional 3 external experts were contracted as recorders (one per panel). A total of 17 external experts were involved in the evaluation, in addition to the 3 external ethics experts who performed the ethics evaluation.

Based on the ranking by the evaluation committee/panel and the budgetary constraints, the responsible authorising officer drew up the EU call ranked lists (see Annex 1), with:

- a main list of proposals (to be invited to grant preparation)
- a reserve list of proposals (if any) and
- the list of proposals that cannot be funded because below available budget.

A second list contains the proposals that failed one (or more) of the thresholds (below-threshold proposals).

The ED a.i. shared the GAP state of play, indicating that:

- 8 GAP phase on-going, all of them progressing well without any major issues preventing a signature of the Grant Agreement as per Horizon Europe timeline
- 7 Projects start date between 01<sup>st</sup> of June and 01<sup>st</sup> of September 2023 (signature of GA from June to August 2023).

Regarding proposal Hyperlution submitted under topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-FA7-03 of call HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02, it was evaluated by independent evaluators as under threshold. However, he indicated the coordinator of the proposal submitted a complaint on 10/04. The redress review committee meetings took place on 25/04 and 05/05. The final GB Decision on the re-evaluation is scheduled to be adopted on 23/06 or by written procedure.

The ED a.i. asked SRG members to help disseminate information on the 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals expected to be launched in October, *inter alia* with the organisation of national info-days, in order to attract more applicants. He stated the deadline for submission of proposals will be extended compared to the normal 3 months opening duration.

The ED a.i. then provided participants with an update on the Deployment Group, which targets how to strengthen the sector's capability to contribute to sustainability, accelerating the pace to bring rail innovation into the market. It is expected to formulate recommendations to the JU, to the European Commission and Member States on the deployment of innovative solutions that require a European coordinated deployment. A first concept paper of the Deployment Group's possible areas of action, scope, legal

<p>setup, and resources was drafted. It was sent to the SRG in May, and presented to the ED-SIPB. A decision is expected at the GB of 23 June.</p> <p>The ED a.i. highlighted that as per art. 97 of the SBA, “The Commission shall take the final decision on the composition of the Group.”</p> <p>The SRG acting Chair commented on the need to increase the involvement of academia in projects. He stated the role of the Deployment Group should be to prepare an impact assessment.</p> <p>The NL representative enquired how the balance between stakeholders will be ensured. The ED a.i. indicated all associations recognised by the European Commission and the unions and passenger federations should be associated. The group should provide recommendations to the JU, EC and MS.</p> <p>The FR representative indicated that the MS should be involved in the Deployment group relevant activities, at least in a consultative role. The ED a.i. will report and propose it to the GB.</p> <p>The ED a.i. underlined that according to Art 22(3) of the SBA, the governing board shall establish the specific criteria and selection process for the composition of the stakeholders group.</p> <p>The DE representative asked if ERA will be in charge of the CBA. The ED a.i. indicated that CBA deployment is wider than TSI.</p> <p>In response to a question from ERA on the timeline for setting up the Deployment Group, the ED a.i. highlighted it would be set up towards the end of the year.</p> <p>Finally, the ED a.i. presented the EU-RAIL JU communication and dissemination activities.</p> <p>The NL representative questioned why the previous call did not retain sufficient attention. The ED a.i. indicated possible reasons, including a too short deadline for submission, as well as possibly some attention dedicated to communication and dissemination for 1<sup>st</sup> call and to the detriment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> call. He also underlined the comparatively small budget size as a possible explanation for low attraction rates.</p> <p>The ED a.i. stressed available resources could be coordinated with MS to ensure proper dissemination.</p> <p><b>The SRG members agreed, and they will inform the JU of any input and support they could deploy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> call (e.g. info-day or event, or contacts with national agencies, etc.). The JU can also support national activities with for example the presence of JU staff and presentation.</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Election of SRG Chair/Vice-Chair</b></p> <p>The ED a.i. indicated that according to the amended Art. 4(1) of the SRG RoP, MS sent proposed candidates for each of the two positions of Chair and Vice-Chair - including</p>	<p>11:30-12:00</p>

<p>names, short curriculum vitae and statements of motivation and impartiality by 24 May 2023 cob, with extended deadline 1 June.</p> <p>EU-RAIL JU secretariat has verified whether the candidacies put forward have been accepted by the candidates themselves and proceeded to a verification of the supporting documents received.</p> <p>Following this check, EU-RAIL shared the list of proposed candidates for each of the two positions to the SRG Representatives, along with their CVs and statements of motivation and of impartiality.</p> <p>They were put to a formal vote among SRG members at the 6th SRG meeting of 7 June, following the procedure described in Art 4 of the Rules of Procedure: The ED a.i. indicated that Mr Miroslav Haltuf’s candidacy was received as sole candidate to the position of SRG Chair and as sole candidate to the position of SRG Vice-Chair.</p> <p>According to the RoP, the Chair and Vice Chair shall each be elected in principle by consensus, as a common opinion reached by the SRG Members represented at the election meeting, or, failing that, on the basis of a simple majority of the SRG Members represented at the meeting or through electronic voting.</p> <p>The SRG members represented at the meeting voted in favour of Miroslav Haltuf as Chair of the SRG (AT, BE, DK, FI, FR, DE, IE, IT, LU, NL, PL, PT, SP, NO, TR)</p> <p>The ED a.i. congratulated Miroslav Haltuf for his election as Chair of the SRG. Mr Haltuf indicated he would work in favour of a sustainable and innovative railway system.</p> <p>For the position of Vice-Chair, the ED a.i. suggested to postpone the vote to the next SRG meeting. <b>The vote is to be launched on 17 October in time for the meeting of 16 November.</b></p>	
<p><b>4. Vote on Candidates supported by the SRG in relation to the Call for Expression of Interest on the Establishment of the Scientific Steering Group</b></p> <p>The ED a.i. highlighted that the 7<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting of 15 March 2023 adopted GB Decision n°06/2023 on the launch of the CEI to establish the Scientific Steering Group. The CEI was published end of March.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 21(4) of the SBA, the GB shall take into consideration the potential candidates proposed by the SRG – i.e. candidates supported by the SRG as a group.</p> <p>The SRG was invited to communicate to EU-RAIL, through its Chair, a list of proposed candidates.</p> <p>The ED a.i. stressed that the candidates will in any case have to submit their applications officially in line with the CEI by 30 June („Please note nonetheless that <u>all candidates</u> should submit their application via e-mail to <a href="mailto:info-call@rail-research.europa.eu">info-call@rail-research.europa.eu</a> (i.e. even the candidates supported by the SRG as a group need to</p>	12:00-12:20

<p>reply to the call for expression of interest, providing all information requested by the call and submitting their application within the deadline to the indicated address”).</p> <p>Following this, the evaluation on submitted applications will take place from July to November, and the GB of December will take a final decision on the establishment of the Scientific Steering Group.</p> <p>The SRG representatives present at the meeting proceeded to the vote on the list of the 8 candidates supported by the SRG as a group and put forward by the following countries: AT, CZ, ES, FR, IT, NL, PT. Consensus was reached as AT, CZ, DK, FI, FR, DE, IT, LU, NL, PT, SP, NO, TR voted in favour of the list, whilst BE and PL abstained.</p>	
<p><b>5. Opinion on Annual Activity Report 2022</b></p> <p>The ED a.i. indicated the draft Annual Activity Report 2022 was sent to the SRG on 1/06/2023. It follows the draft already provided to the GB on 2/05/2023 , and includes a few adjustments based on error corrections, inclusion of comments from GB members and updated declarations. He clarified the final Annual Accounts 2022 are expected to be received, as every year, by mid-June and an updated version will be therefore provided at this time.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that the AAR receives the positive opinion of the SRG.</p>	12:20-12:30
<p><b>6. Discussion on opinion on the draft AWP 2023</b></p> <p>The ED a.i. underlined that the amendment 1 to the Work Programme 2023-2024 was sent to the SRG on 1 June. It was originally adopted by the GB on 30 November 202. It includes in particular the detailed topics for the planned call 2023. One of them is a joint topic with SESAR3 JU (with transfer of budget to EU-Rail), a programme operational collaboration (Air-Rail) with EU-RAIL JU Flagship Area 1 on Traffic Management</p> <p>Furthermore, the ED a.i. indicated that topic ideas were received from the SRG for MAWP 2024-2025. The suggested topic on “Energy efficiency driving using ATO and low emission rolling stock - Validation tests in the CZ (Acronym: EED ATO = Energy Efficiency Driving using ATO)” can be a possible anticipation of FA2. Based on an analysis about this possibility, a dedicated call may be launched to cover this aspect. He indicated discussions are also ongoing on possible anticipation of FA2 with a dedicated call on testing for FRMCS.</p> <p>He indicated discussions on the process for the selection of associated members will be launched at the GB of December 2023.</p> <p>The SRG Chair indicated the positive opinion of SRG is provided on the draft AWP 2023-2024.</p>	12:30-12:40

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>MS role in providing national R&amp;I activities' list and their potential synergies with EU-RAIL JU Programme</b></li> </ul> <p>The ED a.i. presented the EU-RAIL JU suggestions for the reporting template (two reporting templates sent to SRG members in May).</p> <p>He suggested a template on general information to be filled in once and updated whenever needed, and published on the JU website, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Policy: competent authorities, contact details</li> <li>○ Strategy: short description of policy priorities, covered areas</li> <li>○ Related programmes</li> <li>○ Technology Readiness Levels covered within the programme(s)</li> <li>○ Calls/Funding schemes</li> <li>○ Coordination of dissemination/communication events (e.g. national info days on EU-Rail calls, providing also information on national synergies)</li> </ul> <p>In addition, he recommended a template on specific information (project based) be filled in potentially at each SRG meeting, to be published on the JU website and including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential synergies/complementarities with EU-RAIL JU + report of identified areas of cooperation</li> <li>○ Measures concerning deployment activities in relation to JU</li> <li>○ Specific project-level dissemination events, communication activities</li> </ul> <p>The Chair underlined an annual report should be consolidated at the end of each calendar year, including all the above.</p> <p><b>The representatives agreed that at the next meeting, information on synergies between programmes will be provided by each MS based on these templates. This will then be consolidated in one position document before the annual General Assembly.</b></p> <p>The DE representative agreed a test trial with these reporting templates be deployed and then assessed. Flagship projects should also have a look at national projects. The ED a.i. marked his agreement.</p>	12:40-12:50
<p><b>7. Closing remarks and AoB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Date of the next SRG meeting: 16 November</li> <li>- Proposal for an SRG meeting during TRA 2024 Dublin: 15-18 April 2024</li> <li>- proposal to submit the common Special Interest Session proposal to organize a session with SSG about promotion of ERJU work and its progress</li> </ul> <p>The SRG representatives gave a mandate to the Chair to develop these two proposals.</p>	12:50-13:00