

OPINION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

on the Final Accounts 2023, including the Budgetary Implementation Report 2023

N° 11/2024

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

Having regard to the Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (hereafter the "Single Basic Act" or the "SBA")¹, and in particular Article 17(2)(q) and Article 26(3) and (4) thereof;

Having regard to the Financial Rules adopted by the Governing Board Decision on 21 December 2021 (hereafter the "Financial Rules")² and in particular Article 48 and Article 54;

Having regard to the preliminary observations of the European Court of Auditors ("the Court") on the 2023 provisional accounts of the EU-RAIL.

Whereas:

- (1) On 29.02.2024 the EU-RAIL Accounting Officer sent the 2023 provisional annual accounts to the President of the Court of Auditors (internal ref: Ares (2024) 1568754,
- (2) On 07.03.2024, the EU-RAIL Acting Executive Director submitted the EU-RAIL 2023 provisional annual accounts to the Governing Board for comments (internal ref: Ares(2024)1803274),
- (3) The accounting officer drew up the EU-RAIL final annual accounts and on 12.06.2024 (Ares(2024)4251315) sent them to the EU-RAIL Executive Director,
- (4) The EU-RAIL final accounts were audited by the EU-RAIL External Auditor and an "Independent Auditor's report on the Final Annual Accounts as at 31 December 2023" was sent on 14.06.2024 (Ares(2024)4377365),
- (5) On 14.06.2024 (Ares(2024)4392035), the Executive Director submitted the final annual accounts 2023 to the Governing Board for consultation,
- (6) The Governing Board should deliver an opinion on the final accounts of the EU-RAIL,
- (7) The Executive Director should, by 1 July of the following year, send the final accounts to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors, together with the Governing Board's opinion,
- (8) The final annual accounts differ mainly from the provisional annual accounts, as regards operational expenditure and associated accruals, in kind contributions provided in

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17–119 as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2023/1782 of 25 July 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, as regards the Chips Joint Undertaking.

² <https://rail-research.europa.eu/about-europes-rail/europes-rail-reference-documents/europes-rail-key-documents/>

implementing indirect actions (IKOP) and the disclosure texts pertaining to the IKOP and in-kind contributions provided in implementing additional activities (IKAA) to take into account the updated amounts submitted by the former S2R Members Other than Union by 1 June 2024.

HAS ADOPTED THIS OPINION:

The Governing Board has obtained sufficient assurance in order to conclude that the accounts for the year 2023, taken as a whole, present a true and fair view of the EU-RAIL financial position at 31 December 2023 and properly reflect the implementation of the JU's budget for the year 2023. The Governing Board provides a favourable opinion on the Europe's Rail Final Accounts 2023 and Budgetary Implementation Report 2023 as annexed to this opinion.

Done at Brussels, on 21 June 2024.

For the Governing Board



Magda KOPCZYNSKA
The Chairperson

Annex: Europe's Rail Final Accounts 2023 and Budgetary Implementation Report 2023