



## 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL SRG

14 May 2024

11:00 – 13:30

Hybrid meeting

<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting welcoming the participants and by introducing the new UK representative.</p> <p>The DE representative introduced her two colleagues composing the DE delegation for this meeting. She took the opportunity to inform that they were planning to launch a survey with SRG members on group functioning which will be anonymous, to which none opposed.</p> <p>All members introduced themselves by alphabetical order.</p> <p>The Chair also welcomed the representative of the Transport Community invited to this meeting.</p> <p>➤ <i>Next steps regarding the survey: The chair of the SRG will distribute to the nominated members the link with the survey to finalize it before September 6 in order to consolidate the results of this survey. Before end of September the consolidated results will be distributed to all SRG members and officially presented and discussed at the 10th regular SRG meeting in October.</i></p>	<p>11:00- 11:05</p>
<p><b>2. Approval of Agenda and previous MoM</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous SRG meeting were approved with a small precision requested by the NL and AT representatives.</p>	<p>11:05- 11:10</p>
<p><b>3. Presentation by Western Balkan's representatives – Key R&amp;I challenges and priorities</b></p> <p>Mr Kire Dimanoski, Rail Officer at Transport Community (TC) Secretariat did a presentation on the key R&amp;I challenges and priorities for the Western Balkan region. (see presentation in CIRCABC).</p> <p>A brief discussion followed his presentation. In response to question by the AT representative, the TC representative explained that TC country members are not “islands” in the sense of railway connection, and that there were only operational limitations (e.g., due to floods or ongoing works). He also said that if there are some lines not working now (e.g., Budapest to Bucharest), it is not for technical reasons, but purely commercial.</p>	<p>11:10- 11:30</p>

<p>The Chair thanked Mr Dimanoski for his participation and expressed his wish that this meeting will serve to establish a fruitful and permanent collaboration. The Chair also proposed SRG members to give the status of Observer to TC, to which everyone agreed, waiting for the nomination of its formal representative (an option put forward by the Chair could be that the AL SRG representative represents TC as this country is full member).</p> <p>➤ <i>The Chair/Secretariat will request TC for the nomination of a formal representative before the SRG.</i></p>	
<p><b>4. Update on EU-Rail’s on-going activities</b></p> <p>The Acting ED updated SRG members on the most important developments on the following topics:</p> <p><i>(see presentation in CIRCABC)</i></p> <p>- <b>Report on System Pillar (SP) work</b></p> <p>He started referring to the outcome of the SP Steering Group meeting held on 18/03, in which work on Traffic Management Systems (TMS) was presented. He reported on the discussion on the initial work on Harmonised Diagnostics, that will now enter into a second phase. The meeting also dealt with the consultation process on draft documents on cybersecurity and with the response to the CER/EIM Paper on Railway System Architecture.</p> <p>He then presented the agenda of the coming up SP-STG meeting of 29/05. On the agenda there are some items for decision, such as on TSI standardisation and TACS. An Energy report will also be discussed.</p> <p>The DE representative asked whether the reports of the SP are available. The Acting ED replied that the Chair receives them, and if wished they can be shared with all members. The Chair agreed and asked for these reports to be made available.</p> <p>➤ <i>The Secretariat will upload all these reports in a special folder in CIRCABC.</i></p> <p>The Acting ED continued explaining the status summary of SP tasks. All the activities are proceeding according to the plan. The only element of attention is the work on DAC. The reason is that it was delayed on the operation procedure, which is important specially when going to pre-deployment train, as it should be the same in every country.</p> <p>The Chair asked in relation to the task on harmonised operation procedures, whether this means that TSI will be subject to changes in 2027, to which the ED assented. The Chair asked SRG members to pay attention to this. This topic needs to be taken into consideration when preparing topics to be focusing per year.</p> <p>Currently, the new yearly service contract under the SP Framework Contract is in drafting.</p> <p>➤ <i>The Acting ED proposed to share information on this point with SRG members.</i></p>	<p>11:30- 12:10</p>

The NL representative suggested to find the relation between the different parts to be able to have the bigger picture, otherwise it is not so easy to understand for SRG members. Actions that will need to be taken by the MS should also be highlighted. The Chair and the FR representative agreed.

➤ *The Acting ED took note of the request for presentation improvement.*

The Acting ED continued updating members on 4 draft documents on cybersecurity. The plan is to adopt them in January next year. A Q&A session was ongoing. There will be a liaison with the IEC international committee, to ensure no duplication of activity.

The Chair commented that on cybersecurity, there is a link to FRMCS. The ED agreed but said that at the moment FRMCS follows the telecoms standards.

Regarding STIP, the Acting ED informed that a document was updated periodically, and that progressively the document was enhanced.

- **Outcome of 2023 Call for proposals**

The Acting ED presented the outcome of last year's Call. All information on the selected projects is available on the website. The Chair however suggested to improve the way the information is made available, to what several members agreed.

➤ *The Acting ED proposed to present the information also per country in the next meeting.*

The AT representative suggested an interface with CORDIS/CORDA. The Acting ED replied that as there is a direct alignment with the EC tool, therefore the information is integrated, but probably with some updates delay. What cannot be found for the moment being is the additional contribution for the members (IKAA).

The UK representative commented that there was quite a number of reserve projects. She asked in relation to the 10 UK successful participants who will get UK funding, whether there would be additional budget to fund those reserve projects. The Acting ED replied that once the Grant Agreement Preparation will be concluded, a decision could be made on the use of the remaining budget from the call 2023.

The AT representative commented that it is not fair that projects stay in the reserve list for so long. The length of the reserve list should be built according to residual budget. The Chair fully supported this comment and suggested discussing with the SSG on how to include this into the preparatory work for FP10.

- **Expression of interest for the 100 DAC pioneer trains**

The Acting ED presented an overview of the current response to the expression of interest launched by the JU in January.

The SRG representatives asked for additional details on the pioneers, to which the Acting ED indicated that a presentation will be published on the website at this address:

<https://rail-research.europa.eu/news/request-for-expression-of-interest-to-be-part-of-a-possible-large-scale-testing-of-100-dac-pre-deployment-trains-in-europe-2026-2028/>.

- **Draft Call for expression of interest in view of selecting Associated Members (AM Call)**

The Acting ED reminded everyone of the different steps before launching this Call. A draft was shown to members during the meeting and the SRG had the opportunity to provide their input.

A final draft is to be sent to the GB on 24/05 for adoption in its June meeting. The GB decision plus EC endorsement on the call for expression of interest in view of selecting new members is expected in Q1 2025.

The Chair asked who can guarantee that the timing will be fulfilled or if somebody acts in a legal process. He proposed to ask the EC to make a comment on this potential risk. The UK representative expressed her views that this draft was just a recommendation by the ED to the GB. The Acting ED assented and added that this process will be actually happening in the beginning of 2025.

The UK representative asked if there was scope for new participation, as there are only 2 years left. The ED replied there is, and that the updated MAWP had identified some areas that could be better covered (*see presentation*).

The Chair wondered whether affiliated entities to current EU-Rail members should be eligible. The Acting ED replied that current affiliated entities to EU-Rail Members are already part of the membership.

The TR representative asked whether the in-kind contributions were different depending on the type of organisation, to which the Acting ED replied it is not the case. He also asked clarifications for the calculation of the Members' contribution to administrative costs of the JU that the Acting ED provided.

- **Status of Deployment Group setup**

In the interest of time and considering that the presentation was distributed, this item was not presented during the meeting (*see presentation*).

- **Upcoming communication and dissemination activities**

In the interest of time and considering that the presentation was distributed, this item was not presented during the meeting (*see presentation*).

**5. Report from the SRG**

- **Work Programme 2025-2026: Exploratory research - input on next Call(s)**

The Acting ED informed on the planning and contributions that have been received so far (*see presentation*).

12:10-  
12:25

**6. Points for SRG decision**

- **Draft update Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) – SRG opinion**

12:25-  
13:15

<p><i>The Chair proposed a favourable opinion on the draft MAWP that had been sent in advance and all members agreed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Draft Annual Activity Report (AAR) 2023 – SRG opinion</b> <i>The Chair proposed a favourable opinion on the draft AAR 2023 that had been sent in advance and all members agreed.</i></li> <li>- <b>Draft proposal for a study on transport policy</b> The Chair expressed his satisfaction on the joint work by DE, NL, and FR, etc. The AT representative asked about the financing of this study. <i>The Chair proposed to present the proposal to the next System Pillar of 29/05</i> and make proposal on how to deal with overlaps. The NL representative added that something should be said about the process for the rest of the year (e.g., if certain stakeholders had to be consulted). He also suggested to replace the term “core group” by “working group”. <i>It was also agreed to consult with the SSG.</i></li> <li>- <b>Formal approval of Conclusions of Extraordinary SRG meeting of 6 February 2024</b> <i>The Conclusions were approved.</i></li> <li>- <b>SRG “priorities” in the FPs</b> (monitoring and support of 2-3 topics e.g., TMS and FRMCS, ATO, etc.) The Chair proposed the members send their comments on this last point due to lack of time. ➤ <i>SRG members to provide feedback to the Chair before next SRG meeting.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. MS activities related to rail R&amp;I</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Members agreement on proposed actions by the JU</b></li> <li>- <b>New members’ contributions since last meeting</b></li> </ul> <p>The Acting ED informed about the publication of contributions on EU-Rail’s website. But he highlighted that the info must be updated, and more contributions are needed. He further invited members to send their contributions.</p> <p>➤ <i>SRG members are requested to complete the list and provide the national contributions to the JU using the respective templates.</i></p> <p>Concerning the EU-Rail proposed synergy actions with the national projects shared by SRG members, given the past deadline, if no answer has been received the JU would consider a tacit agreement.</p>	13:15-13:20
<p><b>8. Principles of coordination with the EU-Rail’s SSG and other JU bodies</b></p> <p>The Chair showed his proposal for the coordination with the SSG, which would be presented at the Joint Session in the afternoon (<i>see presentation</i>).</p>	13:20-13:25
<p><b>9. Closing remarks and AoB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Feedback on recent events</b> (Connecting Europe Days, TRA)</li> </ul>	13:25-13:30

*(see presentation)*

- **Dates of the next SRG meeting:** 9 October 2024