

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
on the Europe's Rail Work Programme 2025-2026

N° 17/2024

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021¹ establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, in particular points (f), (k), and (n) of Article 17(2), point (d) of Article 20(7), point (a) of Article 21(7) and Article 94 (b) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination²,

Having regard to the consultation for opinion from the EU-Rail States Representatives Group (SRG) dated 9 October 2024 and for advice from the EU-Rail Scientific Steering Group (SSG) dated 26 September 2024, with positive outcome,

Whereas:

- 1) The EU-Rail Governing Board should adopt the Work Programme 2025-2026 of the Joint Undertaking and the corresponding expenditure estimates as proposed by the Executive Director after having consulted the States' Representatives Group and the Scientific Steering Committee and based on the recommendation of the System Pillar Steering Group and the input of the European Union Agency for Railways.
- 2) The Governing Board should also adopt the annual budget of the Joint Undertaking, as proposed by the Executive Director, including the staff establishment plan. As regards the budget for 2025 and 2026 (statement of revenue and expenditure), the Work Programme 2025-2026 includes the increase of commitment and payment appropriations in order to re-inscribe the unused appropriations from years 2022-2024 and year 2025. It includes the increase of commitment and payment appropriations from operational third countries excluding EFTA, as a result of the association of the United Kingdom to the Horizon Europe Programme, of the EU-Rail GB request as per decision n. 17/2023 on the commitment expressed by the private members to match a possible increase in the Union contribution to the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking, and of the endorsement of the Horizon Europe Steering Board based on a proposal by the European Commission. The budget also includes a decrease of commitment appropriations from the Union as a result of the European Commission's implementation of the Council Regulation 2023/0201 related to the revision of the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, with the redeployment of EUR 2.1 billion from Horizon Europe in favour of other initiatives (notably the establishment of the Ukraine facility and the support to the objectives of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) and the new instrument for NextGenerationEU interest financing).

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17–119. This act has been changed. Current consolidated version: [21/09/2023](#).

² OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1.

- 3) The Governing Board shall approve the annual additional activities plan, set out in an Annex to the main part of the work programme, on the basis of a proposal from the members other than the Union and after having consulted the EU-Rail Scientific Steering Group and after taking into consideration the States' Representatives Group's opinion.
- 4) The comments received in the consultation process from the private members of the Joint Undertaking, the opinion of the States' Representatives Group, the advice of the Scientific Steering Group, the recommendation of the System Pillar Steering Group as well as the input of the European Union Agency for Railways were duly considered by the Executive Director and, when appropriate, included in the version of the Work Programme 2025-2026 submitted to the Governing Board on 24 October 2024³.
- 5) The necessary appropriations for the implementation of the Work Programme for 2025-2026 are provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2025, which has not yet been formally adopted⁴.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Work Programme 2025-2026 set out in the Annex of this Decision is hereby adopted.

Article 2

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2025 following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority.

Article 3

The Executive Director shall make this decision publicly available on the EU-Rail's website.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels, on 21 November 2024.

For the Governing Board



Magda KOPCZYNSKA
The Chairperson

Annex: Europe's Rail Work Programme 2025-2026

³ Ares(2024)7594842.

⁴ The budgetary authority (Council and European Parliament) reached an agreement on the annual budget 2025 on 16 November 2024. The European Parliament and the Council have 14 days to formally approve the agreement reached. The Parliament is expected to endorse it on 27 November 2024.