

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Approving the High-Level Paper on

“A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail”

N° 06/2025

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 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 642/2014¹, and in particular Article 17(2)(a) and Article 19(4)(u) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The European rail sector requires decisive action to simplify its systems and operations while enhancing its fundamental capabilities, with European innovation to make rail systems more agile, resilient and competitive. Upon the initiative of the EU-RAIL Executive Director and in agreement with the Chair of the Governing Board, different workshops on the future of the Joint Undertaking took place in 2024.
- (2) The EU-RAIL Executive Director presented the outcome of the workshops during the Governing Board meeting of 21 November 2024 and the next steps “leading to a white paper by the end of the year and a roadmap to deeper content developments for next year”².
- (3) At the Governing Board meeting of 5 February 2025, the Chair introduced a draft High-Level Paper on “*the future of Rail Research from EU-RAIL*”, which was prepared by the EU-RAIL Members with the support of the Executive Director.
- (4) The revised draft High-Level Paper on “*A Future Policy Based Public Private Partnership For Rail*”, reflecting the discussions held on the Governing Board meeting of 5 February 2025, was published as a draft working document in the EU-RAIL website on 14 March 2025³.
- (5) The EU-Rail Members contributed to the High-Level Paper advising the Executive Director through dedicated meetings of the Executive Director-System and Innovation

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17, 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/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/20241121_GB-Meeting_MoM-1-1.pdf

³ <https://rail-research.europa.eu/latest-news/draft-paper-a-future-policy-based-public-private-partnership-for-rail-2/>

Programme Board (ED-SIPB), including the participation and contribution from the European Union Agency for Railways.

- (6) The draft High-Level Paper includes the contributions of the Scientific Steering Group (SSG) and of the EU-RAIL States' Representatives Group (SRG), both expressing their positive feedback in their last meetings held on 13 and on 14 of May 2025, respectively.
- (7) Upon the consultation process, the draft High-Level Paper on "*A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail*" was finetuned, as well as an initial draft Annex have been drafted. The Annex was distributed to the Governing Board for information purposes only, not for adoption.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The High-Level Paper on "A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail" set out in the Annex to this Decision is adopted.

Article 2

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

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, on 24 June 2025.

For the Governing Board



Magda KOPCZYNSKA
The Chairperson

Annex: High-Level Paper on "A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail"