

OPINION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

on the Final Accounts 2024, including the Budgetary Implementation Report 2024

N° 05/2025

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 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)(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 Articles 48, 52, 53 and 54;

Having regard to the preliminary observations of the European Court of Auditors on the 2024 provisional accounts of the EU-RAIL.

Whereas:

- (1) On 28 February 2025 the EU-RAIL Accounting Officer sent the 2024 provisional annual accounts to the President of the Court of Auditors, the Commission's Accounting Officer and the external auditors (internal ref: Ares(2025)1618268),
- (2) On 4 April 2025 the EU-RAIL Executive Director submitted the EU-RAIL 2024 provisional annual accounts to the Governing Board for comments (internal ref: Ares Ares(2025)3914702),
- (3) The accounting officer drew up the EU-RAIL final annual accounts and on 19 June 2025 (Ares(2025)4900389) 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 2024" was sent on 19 June 2025 (Ares(2025)4903358),
- (5) On 19 June 2025 (Ares(2025)4984653) the Executive Director submitted the final annual accounts 2024 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 2025, send the EU-RAIL Final Accounts 2024 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors, together with the Governing Board's opinion,

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/about-europes-rail/europes-rail-reference-documents/europes-rail-key-documents/>

- (8) The final annual accounts differ mainly from the provisional annual accounts, as regards in-kind contributions provided in implementing additional activities (IKAA) to take into account the updated amounts submitted by the current EU-RAIL members other than the Union by first June 2025 and any other adjusting events occurring between the date of issue of the provisional accounts and the final accounts.

HAS ADOPTED THIS OPINION:

The Governing Board has obtained sufficient assurance in order to conclude that the accounts for the year 2024, taken as a whole, present a true and fair view of the EU-RAIL financial position at 31 December 2024 and properly reflect the implementation of the JU's budget for the year 2024. The Governing Board provides a favourable opinion on the Europe's Rail Final Accounts 2024 and Budgetary Implementation Report 2024 as annexed to this opinion.

Done at Brussels, on 24 June 2025.

For the Governing Board



Magda KOPCZYNSKA
The Chairperson

Annex: Europe's Rail Final Accounts 2024 and Budgetary Implementation Report 2024