



12th MEETING OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL SRG

14 May 2025

09:30 – 12:30

Hybrid meeting

Minutes of the meeting

<p>1. Introduction <i>Welcome by the Chairperson</i> <i>Declarations of conflict of interest based on the Agenda items</i></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and invited the participants to declare any conflict of interest.</p>	<p>09:30- 09:35</p>
<p>2. Approval of Agenda and previous MoM The agenda of the meeting was approved including two additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK representative raised the question of what steps the JU is proposing to ensure attracting new participants to future projects. • The DE representative proposed to present the results of the Delphi survey on research needs, conducted by the <i>Deutsches Zentrum für Schienenverkehrforschung (DZSF)</i>. 	<p>09:35- 09:40</p>
<p>3. Update on EC activities This update was postponed as DG MOVE was excused from this meeting.</p>	<p>09:40- 09:50</p>
<p>4. Update on EU-Rail's on-going activities - Report on System Pillar (SP) work</p> <p>Ian Conlon, Head of the System Pillar at EU-Rail, presented the latest developments, in particular the outcome of the last System Pillar Steering Group (SP-STG) meeting held on 13 March 2025. There were decisions on trackside assets (TACS) analysis, the traffic CS system concept and cybersecurity specifications. <i>(see the powerpoint presentation for more details)</i></p> <p>The AT representative addressed a question on ETCS level 3. Ian Conlon explained that the decision in the last TSI revision was that the distinction between level 2 and 3 would disappear in the specifications. It is though true that the current specifications allow a wide variety of implementation possibilities, and the System Pillar work is aiming to narrow and harmonise the implementation of Level 2 operation to enable simplification and cost reduction in ETCS deployment.</p> <p>Ian continued explaining that cybersecurity is growing in importance. In terms of future implementation, as there are several requirements at European level the SP work is taking all those European requirements and the existing rail requirements combined in a single set which</p>	<p>09:50- 10:30</p>

are then put forward as a set of specifications for railway manufacturers to align to the European rules.

The AT representative addressed the question of to which extent quantum security is already in the centre of discussion/implementation for future rail security in the EU. Ian replied that it is not in the scope for work so far, but part of the discussions for some work of the FPs. It is not yet known if it will be in the call text, but certainly under consideration.

The Chair proposed that as it seems that there is an interest from State representatives to have more detailed information on SP topics, he will distribute a questionnaire for members to propose a list of topics of interest. - **Action**

Ian Conlon continued presenting the items for information of the last SP-STG meeting, such as on FRMCS, the second phase of contract SC2.4 and new contract SC2.5, STIP revision and ASTP. He then presented the progress status which was overall positive except for some delays on the work of operational harmonization.

- **Report on High-Level Deployment Group (DpG) work**

Ian Conlon gave an update on the recent developments on the DpG work. (*see the powerpoint presentation for more details*)

The FRMCS subgroup remits and working plan has been approved. The topic for the next meeting will be to discuss alignment major transition programmes for operational deployment topics (e.g. serial retrofitting on-board units for ERTMS, FRMCS, DAT...).

The Chair said that we should avoid any conflicts as happened with telematics. He asked if there was any coordination to find consensus in the sector (not compromise, which he does not like). Ian Conlon replied that the Deployment Group is a mechanism to allow the different members of the rail community to coordinate.

- **High level overview of Innovation Pillar (IP) activities**

The ED introduced the new Head of Unit for Innovation, Nicolas Furio, a French civil engineer who was responsible for projects in France, and then joined UNIFE in Brussels with different roles, the last one being Head of Technical Affairs. He therefore knows well the work of the JU. He expressed his enthusiasm and commitment to work hard for the ambitious goal to deliver the EU-Rail programme.

Nicolas Furio gave a detailed overview of all projects managed by the IP team. (*see the powerpoint presentation for more details*)

The Chair proposed, as for the SP, organizing a dedicated meeting for all IP issues of interest for SRG members. This will be part of the survey to be launched. - **Action**

He raised the question of FP6 topics on how to help demonstrators, whether they should be included in the list of issues of the dedicated meeting.

- **Ongoing and upcoming communication and dissemination activities**

The Executive Director (ED) presented the main ongoing and planned communication activities.

He started by a meeting with the Members of European Parliament (MEPs) of the Transport (TRAN) committee held on 9 April 2025, where he provided an update of EU-Rail's initiatives to drive rail digitalization and automation. The newly appointed ED of ERA was also participating. The two organizations will jointly participate in the International Transport Forum (ITF) with a stand, and the EU-Rail ED will attend a Ministers' Roundtable on 21 May.

On the same date, all JUs will do a gathering event in the EP, with the objective to showcase the impact and importance of JUs. *(see the powerpoint presentation for more details)*

The ED addressed the additional agenda point proposed by the UK representative when presenting the **Regional Matchmaking Days**. The idea, he said, is to engage further geographical representation with new participants in the future calls the organization of those events would be more effective with cooperation from voluntary SRG members. The ED launched a call to all SRG members for volunteering for this initiative and a suitable timeframe would then be proposed. - **Action**

The ED added that in addition of the regional matchmaking days, EU-Rail in its info-day will make use as well of the B2Match platform.

The AT representative intervened to say that it was a very interesting initiative and asked for some kind of information package to have something on hand to contact regional stakeholders. The ED welcomed the proposal and confirmed that a package will be developed. - **Action**

The AT representative also asked for some time indication. The ED replied that it will be for the second half of the year.

The PL representative offered Warsaw, easily accessible by rail and plane, even after the EU Presidency.

The Chair added that Warsaw is excellent proposal, because the event can cover the Baltic countries, FI, as well as CZ, SK, HU and AT.

The UK representative asked if it would be suitable after the second call of the year in October. She proposed to fix it during an existing other conference.

The FR representative asked for clarification of the way of participation in future projects for new entities. The ED informed on the different possibilities of collaboration in accordance with the Horizon Europe rules. The ED reminded that next EU-Rail call for proposals and possibility of participation will be open in October this year and the call closure will be in February next year.

The ED continued presenting the Women in Rail Ward 2025 edition.

- **Status of Associated Members**

The ED presented the 5 new associated members of EU-Rail. *(see the powerpoint presentation for more details)*

The signature of the Letters of Commitment (LoC) was almost concluded – only one is pending. The LoCs detail which flagship areas the associated members intend to contribute to, as well as the value of their contribution.

The AT representative asked the ED to which extent the activities of the JU might change because of the inclusion of the new members. The ED replied that the call for associated members already highlighted the areas in which the JU is lacking expertise. The new members will make possible to cover all the lacking areas, except one, which is in flagship area 6.

- **Other information points**

The ED informed the SRG representatives on the launch of the first call of the year that contained only one topic: “HORIZON-ER-JU-2025-FA7-01: Further Technological development of Maglev-derived Systems”. Only one proposal has been received, and evaluation is ongoing.

<p>The ED shared with the representatives their concern on the low number of responses, although the topic being very specific and probably only few specialised companies could reply. This is the reason for which the JU is trying different communication styles, he said, e.g. the matchmaking days should help in raising interest.</p>	
<p>5. Election of SRG Chair</p> <p>The ED presented this point of the agenda to inform members that the current Chair, Miroslav Haltuf, from Czechia, was the only candidate for re-election as SRG Chair. The ED informed the SRG Members of the eligibility of his candidacy in accordance with the SRG Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>He then invited Mr Haltuf to present his candidature.</p> <p>Mr Haltuf addressed the audience with a pitch.</p> <p>Mr Haltuf was re-elected by consensus of the SRG Members as SRG Chair for a new mandate of two years.</p>	<p>10:30- 10:40</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coffee break</i></p>	<p>10:40- 11:00</p>
<p>6. Points for SRG decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Consolidated Annual Activity Report (AAR) 2024 – SRG opinion for GB meeting of June 2025 <p>The ED presented the draft AAR 2024 as well as the provisional accounts, explaining that the final accounts will only be ready in a few weeks. The final accounts will be proposed for opinion together with the 2024 AAR adoption at the GB meeting in June.</p> <p>The SRG gave a <u>positive opinion</u> on this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Amendment N°1 of the Work Programme (WP) 2025-2026 - SRG opinion for GB meeting of June 2025 <p>The ED introduced the changes that have been done to the WP 2025-2026. He explained the budgetary adjustments and the IKAA reporting (<i>see the powerpoint presentation for more details</i>).</p> <p>Regarding the technical and operational changes, there has been an update of the description of the flagship areas to adapt to the current status (<i>see the powerpoint presentation for more details</i>).</p> <p>He informed the SRG members of some changes still possible due to the integration of the last Associated Member pending to sign the Letter of Commitment as well as a discussion ongoing for a possible inclusion of a rolling stock demonstration activity in FA6 at high TRL (requiring in-kind contribution).</p> <p>The UK representative asked whether the draft WP could be publicly shared. The ED replied that it can be only once the GB adopts it in its June meeting and the JU will publish it immediately on its website, upon signature of the Chair of the GB decision.</p> <p>The DE representative asked whether there were any problems on the timelines for the SP. The ED said that for the WP 25-26 there is no issue and further explained the overall status.</p>	<p>11:00- 11:40</p>

The Chair highlighted the importance to look for possible solution to address the open point for flagship area 6 rolling stock high TRL demonstration activities as well as the inclusion of the SRG proposal for a study. The ED replied that a way forward for FA6 is under discussion with the members and that concerning the SRG study this could be a part of the foreseen framework contract (ongoing call for tender) on “[Strategic Advice to Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking](#)”.

The SRG provided a positive opinion to the amendment n°1 to the WP 2025-2026.

- **Draft Revised Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) – SRG opinion for GB meeting of June 2025**

The ED presented the main changes to the MAWP, such as the inclusion of new topics/technical enablers linked with the area of expertise of the new associated members; adjustments of TRLs; review of technical enablers per FA; and a better reflection of interaction between the FAs and ongoing/future initiatives.

The Chair commented that the SRG can give a positive opinion to this revision, although he wanted to highlight the importance of dual use in the context of the current geopolitical situation. The ED replied that the next point of the agenda will highlight those security consideration and it is the most appropriate document where to highlight those possible future activities on dual use.

The SRG provided a positive opinion to the revised MAWP.

- **Draft High-Level paper on a future policy based public private partnership for rail – SRG opinion for GB meeting of June 2025**

The ED recalled the status of the document, presented following the initial preparatory works last year, at the Governing Board meeting of 5 February. With the agreement of the GB, a draft was published in the EU-RAIL website on 14 March 2025. The EU-Rail Members contributed to the High-Level Paper advising the Executive Director through dedicated meetings of the ED-SIPB, including the participation and contribution from observers (with the active participation of the SRG Chair in the name of the SRG as GB observer).

The ED also presented the latest development on the Annex to the main document. Upon the consultation process an Annex to the draft High-Level Paper, describing three Flagship Initiatives has been initiated. It is at an early stage of development, and it will be sent for information only to the GB. The document will be further developed and finalised with further input from EU-RAIL members and the observers. The ED highlighted that the input from the SRG is important, in particular in view of the proposed new pre-deployment activities that could be better linked to national interest/activities.

In terms of next steps, there will be a last drafting meeting on Monday 19th of May with representatives from EU-Rail Members, so a new version will be shared with the SRG after that.

The FR representative referred to the comments he sent via e-mail on 7 May. He is of the opinion that it is not yet clear what the developments on pre-deployment projects will be. In particular, he would like to read more about what the innovation and pre-deployment funds would be used for, in terms of actual projects' content.

The ED explained that precisely the annex to the high-level paper had been initiated for this purpose and further development of those will provide this clarity. The annex is a living document and exhorted also the contribution on the reflection on how the pre-deployment activities could be operating with the SRG members.

<p>The Chair took the floor to refer to a dedicated internal SRG meeting with the participation of 10 SRG Members held on 15 April. On a question by the Belgian representative, the Chair said that the minutes of that internal meeting would be sent to the members. – <u>Action</u></p> <p>He therefore proposed to give a <u>conditional positive opinion</u> to the current draft paper until he provides his comments in the above referred meeting of Members of the 19th of May (the Chair will participate as an observer). The SRG members agreed. – <i>(Post-meeting note: the SRG Chair verbal input on the meeting of 19 May have been taken into account).</i></p> <p>The AT representative asked for further elaboration on the future of the JU. The ED replied that the paper is presented in a neutral/agnostic on the future implementation instrument, because it could be a JU under FP10 or competitiveness funds or something else. In fact, the Commission is exploring all possibilities and will present in the context of the MFF likely some indication on the way forward as a proposal to the Council mid of this year.</p> <p>The AT representative understood the generic approach, he suggested also to look at IPCEI (Important Project of Common European Interest) as there are already blueprints for such an approach if you look at Hydrogen, for example.</p>	
<p>7. Future of EU-Rail and FP10 – follow-up actions from SRG dedicated meeting of 18/02</p> <p>The ED informed members of a first meeting with the Permanent Representation of Czechia held on 13 of May in Brussel with CZ attachés, the CZ SRG representative (in this case being the SRG Chair) and the ED. The objective was to present EU-Rail activities and strategic direction, as well as to present the draft high-level paper on a future rail public-private partnership.</p> <p>The ED invited representatives to propose meetings between EU-Rail, their PermReps in Brussels and/or national Ministries. - <u>Action</u></p> <p>The Chair invited the DE representative to present the provisional results of the Delphi survey on research needs, conducted by the DZSF. Some adjustments will need to be made to the survey to adapt the experts’ views to issues like safety and resilience. <i>(see the powerpoint presentation for more details)</i></p>	11:40-12:10
<p>8. Report from the SRG</p> <p>- Update on national research projects/activities + state of play of proposed actions by the JU</p> <p>This point was postponed due to lack of time.</p>	12:10-12:20
<p>9. AoB and closing remarks</p> <p>- Date of next SRG meetings: 22 October 2025</p> <p>The Chair announced his intention to launch a specific survey to propose some changes to the functioning of the SRG. He would like to find a way to facilitate and motivate the presence of the SRG representatives in the meetings. - <u>Action</u></p>	12:20-12:30