



Deployment Group - Second formal Meeting

5th June 2025

14:00 – 16:00

Brussels (Belgium)

Participants

1. Carole Coune	AERRL	Physical
2. Mark Remie	AERRL / Nexrail	No
3. Paulo Lauzzana	ALE	Remote
4. Pierre Fleury	Alstom	No
5. Iosu Ibarbia	CAF	No
6. Alberto Mazzola	CER	No
7. Karsten Kemeter	DB	Remote
8. Monika Heiming	EIM	Physical
9. Davide Pifferi	FSI	Remote
10. Antonella Trombetta	Hitachi Rail	No
11. Gianluca Tomei	Knorr-Bremse	Remote
12. Ove Skovdahl	Norwegian Railway Directorate	Physical
13. Christian Sagmeister	OEBB	Remote
14. Ralf Kaminsky	Siemens	No
15. Gilles Quesnel	SNCF	Physical
16. Thomas Joindot	SNCF Réseau /EIM	Remote
17. Paulo Duarte	Portuguese Railway Platform	No
18. Gemma Maria Salazar Luque	Thales	Remote
19. Susanne Skovgaard	Trafikverket	Remote
20. Jean-Michel Evanghelou	UIC	No
21. Enno Wiebe	UNIFE	Remote
22. Jochen Holzfeind	Voestalpine Railway Systems	No
23. Wouter Malfait	ERA	No
24. Giorgio Travaini	EU-RAIL	No
25. Karel Van Gils	EU-RAIL	Physical
26. Ian Conlon	EU-RAIL	Physical
27. Joachim Luecking	DG MOVE	Physical
28. Wawrzyniec Perschke	DG MOVE	Physical
29. Matthias Ruete	DG MOVE	No
30. Christof Schoser	DG MOVE	Remote

31. Alfonso Lorenzo Barba	Ineco	Physical
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Guests

Pau Monteagudo Martorell	ADIF	Remote
Francesco Abbascia	AXIANS	Remote
Bardo Schettini	EIM	Physical
Arjen Boersma	ProRail	No
Torben Holvad	ERA	Remote

Guests (agenda point 2)

Ralf Marxen	DB AG	Remote
Pascal Désaunay	SNCF	Remote
Mario Sela	DB	Remote
Pipsa Hallner	Trafikverket	Remote

Agenda

1. Welcome from the chair and adoption of the agenda
 - 1.1. Information from EC / EU-RAIL
 - 1.2. New applicants
 - 1.3. Approval of meeting minutes
2. FRMCS Deployment Group
 - 2.1. State of play
 - 2.2. FRMCS questionnaire + follow up
 - 2.3. Governance and Budget
 - 2.4. Communication and Dissemination
3. Discussion on alignment Large Railway Transition Deployment Programmes
4. AOB

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome from the chair and adoption of the agenda

Monika Heiming welcomed the attendees both physically and remote to the fifth meeting of the EU-RAIL High Level Deployment Group (HL DpG)¹.

The proposed agenda was adopted by the attendees.

Monika mentioned that there were some absences in the meeting, e.g., CAF, CER, NexRail and ProRail, a future member.

Monika reported that the meeting was being recorded.

1.1. Information from EC / EU-RAIL

Joachim Luecking firstly reported that the European Commission (EC) was still working on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), and the EC would take a decision on the 16th of July in relation to the next multiannual budget of the EC. Secondly, he indicated that DG MOVE was working in a High-Speed Rail Action Plan. Finally, we mentioned that EC was involved in the System Pillar Steering Group discussion on FRMCS issues, such as the nature of the specification, timeline, adoption of the specification on TSI, the governance of the process, etc.

Ian Conlon reported that the Joint Undertaking (JU) was formally expanded with new associated members until 31 members, that spread the geographical range and technical competencies of the members. He also mentioned a future partnership to be considered in the MFF. A future policy paper is distributed by EU-RAIL with support of the associations. He asks the participants to promote a third PPP partnership for specific areas on rail.

1.2. New applicants

Karel Van Gils informed that there were 2 new applicants received: Arjen Boersma (ProRail) and Francesco Abbascia (Axians) as well as 2 replacements: Torben Holvad (ERA) and Pau Monteagudo Martorell (ADIF). They are awaiting the evaluation and decision process following the rules of procedure. They were invited as observers to this HL DpG meeting.

1.3. Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without comments [*Agreement*].

All actions from the previous meeting were closed.

¹ It was the second formal meeting of HL DpG after Commission Decision of 29.11.2024 approving the composition of the Deployment Group and of the System Pillar steering group of the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking

2. FRMCS Deployment Group

2.1. State of play

Karel Van Gils introduced the state of play of the FRMCS deployment group (see the meeting presentation).

Wawrzyniec Perschke informed the deployment group that the updated System Pillar FRMCS report would be adopted in the following weeks, following the System Pillar process, after managing the comments received from the sector and agreeing on the scope, timing, governance, how to draft the technical specification and the frequency on reporting. It was clarified that the European Commission could only deliver what the members of the System Pillar Steering Group decide.

Regarding the master planning, it was emphasized that there were a lot of dependencies among the different processes (e.g., specifications development, MORANE-2, EECT process and RISC process) and the publication of the FRMCS specifications in the TSI. The publication of the TSI end 2028 is potentially possible but considered as very ambitious.

Karel Van Gils, Mario Sela and Pipsa Hallner explained the status of the work done by the working group (WG) 1, 2 and 3, respectively (see the meeting presentation). They indicated that, for the next HL DpG meeting first reports of the WG deliverables will be available.

Davide Pifferi claimed that, in Italy, a strong ERTMS deployment plan with GSM-R is on-going with 4,000 km planned by 2028, making the migration to FRMCS a challenge. He mentioned that Italy planned to migrate to FRMCS when the technical GSM-R end of life would be reached, but the problem is when and how (resources, financial support, etc.). Joachim Luecking clarified that GSM-R would no longer be available in a few years. This is not due to regulatory but practical reasons as mentioned by the industry. Enno Wiebe indicated that no date for GSM-R's end of life was announced by UNIFE. However, UNIFE could not ensure that GSM-R would be available in the future and, for this reason, UNIFE published in the past papers on the migration from GSM-R to FRMCS². See link to these papers in the footnote.

2.2. FRMCS questionnaire + follow up

Pascal Désaunay introduced the FRMCS questionnaire (see the meeting presentation). The aim of this questionnaire is twofold, a) to gather first information on deployment topics and b) to generate more

² https://www.unife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/UNIFE-Position-Paper_Successful-Transition-to-FRMCS_v28092021Final.pdf
https://www.unife.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/UNIFE-Paper_Achieving-FRMCS-in-TSI-2027_170924.pdf

awareness of the upcoming big transformation. He indicated that the questionnaires would be sent via the associations to their members together with an explanatory letter around mid-June. Following the timeline, the answers would be received by July and the first report would be available in September. Support of the participants was requested to collect a sufficient level of information. *[Action: Stimulate members to respond to the questionnaire]*

2.3. Governance and Budget

Karel Van Gils introduced the governance and budget topic (see the meeting presentation). Although a limited financial contribution via EU-RAIL 2nd wave seems applicable, he invited the members to make financial contributions to specific tasks (e.g. cost driver report, writing deployment scenarios).

2.4. Communication and Dissemination

Karel Van Gils introduced the communication and dissemination topic (see the meeting presentation). Wawrzyniec Perschke indicated that the EC would provide an update on the FRMCS situation in the upcoming RISC meeting and in the ERTMS Coordinator Forum, both in terms of development of the specifications and the progress of the work on the deployment.

3. Discussion on alignment of Large Railway Transition Deployment Programmes

Carole Coune and Ove Skovdahl introduced the alignment of Large Railway Transition Deployment Programmes (see the meeting presentation and the distributed document "Deployment Coherence of large Railway Transition Programmes" from 09/05/2025).

After an initial discussion, the members recognized the need and challenges on this topic, but there was not yet agreement on the approach in the proposal. In general terms, further content was required on the kind and the level of coordination, remits and activities of taskforce or subgroup.

The EC indicated that it needs more time to analyse the paper and develop a position on it.

It was stated that such a study or coordination does not take away countries/companies' responsibilities for deployment (decision making, financing, etc). Advice from such a coordinating group would be more on best practice exchange, facilitating alignment, overall global coordination, not mandatory steering of programmes or investment activities.

It was agreed, based on the advice above, to bring more detail and clarity to scope, remits and activities of the proposed taskforce in the next HL DpG in October to take a decision on the way forwards. *[Action:*

Prepare a more detailed and clarity to scope, remits and activities of the proposed taskforce on the alignment Large Railway Transition Deployment Programmes]

4. AOB

The next meeting is planned on 8th of October, focussing on the outcome of the questionnaire and the first draft migration scenarios FRMCS. Also, as second topic, the way forward on the coordinated approach to Deployment of Transformation Programmes and Innovations.

Three meetings are expected in 2026. *[Action: send the save the date for the HL DpG meetings in 2026]*

Action List

No.	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status
1	Stimulate members to respond to the questionnaire	All members	July	open
2	Prepare a more detailed and clarity to scope, remits and activities of the proposed taskforce on the alignment Large Railway Transition Deployment Programmes	Carole Coune and Ove Skovdahl	October HL DpG meeting	Open
3	Send the save the date for the HL DpG meetings in 2026	Alfonso Lorenzo	October HL DpG meeting	Open