Deployment Group - Third formal Meeting

8th October 2025
14:00 – 17:00
Brussels (Belgium)

Participants

1.	Carole Coune	AERRL	Physical
2.	Mark Remie	AERRL / Nexrail	Remote
3.	Paolo Lauzzana	ALE	Remote
4.	Pierre Fleury	Alstom	No
5.	Iosu Ibarbia	CAF	Remote
6.	Alberto Mazzola	CER	Remote
7.	Karsten Kemeter	DB	Physical
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	Remote
13.	Christian Sagmeister	OEBB	Remote
14.	Ralf Kaminsky	Siemens	Remote
15.	Gilles Quesnel	SNCF	Physical
16.	Thomas Joindot	SNCF Réseau /EIM	No
17.	Paulo Duarte	Portuguese Railway Platform	Remote
18.	Gemma Maria Salazar Luque	Thales	Remote
19.	Susanne Skovgaard	Trafikverket	No
20.	Jean-Michel Evanghelou	UIC	Remote
21.	Enno Wiebe	UNIFE	Physical
22.	Jochen Holzfeind	Voestalpine Railway Systems	No
23.	Wouter Malfait	ERA	No
24.	Giorgio Travaini	EU-RAIL	Physical
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	EC	Physical
30.	Christof Schoser	EC	Physical

31. Alfonso Lorenzo Barba	Ineco	Remote

Guests

Pau Monteagudo Martorell	ADIF	Remote
Francesco Abbascia	AXIANS	Remote
Bardo Schettini	EIM	Remote
Arjen Boersma	ProRail	No
Torben Holvad	ERA	Remote
Uwe Ossberger	Voestalpine Railway Systems	Remote

Guests (agenda point 2)

Ralf Marxen	DB AG	Physical
Pascal Désaunay	SNCF	Remote
David Rothbaum	Ericsson	Remote
Mario Sela	DB	Physical
Pipsa Hallner	Trafikverket	Remote

Agenda

1. Welcome from the chair and adoption of the agenda

    1.1. Information from EC / EU-RAIL

    1.2. Approval of meeting minutes

2. FRMCS Deployment Group

    2.1. Results FRMCS deployment survey (questionnaire)

    2.2. State of play (technology, legal & finance, migration scenario's, dashboard)

    2.3. Draft advice to ERA regarding the deployment of FRMCS. (including answering ERA TO)

    2.4. Next steps / Roadmap 2026

3. Alignment Large Railway Transition Deployment Programmes

4. European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP)

5. AOB

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome from the chair and adoption of the agenda

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

The proposed agenda was adopted by the attendees.

1.1. Information from EC / EU-RAIL

Mr. Giorgio Travaini reported that the EU-RAIL activities progressed as planned. He noted that the call for associated members had been successfully closed, marking a significant step towards involving the majority of stakeholders in the process. The second wave of flagship projects has been published, with the deadline for submitting proposals set for 11 February 2026. It includes budget to support the Deployment Group (economical) studies. Additionally, he also mentioned that funding for the Deployment Group activities through the EC DMT contract is expected to be adopted in December 2025.

Mr. Joachim Luecking informed the attendees that the European Commission had proposed ambitious funding for rail projects in the MFF (CEF and ECF budget), and continues to work on both the High-Speed Rail Action Plan and the Military Mobility Package.

Mr. Matthias Ruete stated that the updated ERTMS Coordinator Work Plan is expected to be published by the end of November 2025. He explained that the Work Plan will include an analysis of the National Implementation Plans, which currently appear insufficient to meet the deadlines set by the revised TEN-T Regulation. He highlighted that a key question is whether the industry has sufficient capacity to support the expected ERTMS deployment. Additional topics to be addressed in the Work Plan include the High-Speed Rail Action Plan, FRMCS, governance at both European and national levels (including the role of national coordinators), and cybersecurity.

1.2. Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved *[Agreement]*.

Actions 1 and 2 have been closed, while Action 3 was decided in AOB. Further details can be found in the action list table at the end of these minutes.

2. FRMCS Deployment Group

2.1. Results FRMCS deployment survey (questionnaire)

Mr. Karel Van Gils introduced, as preamble of the survey, the observations from deployment perspective (see meeting presentation).

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[1] It was the third 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

Mr. Pascal Désaunay expressed appreciation for the responses received to the FRMCS deployment survey and presented the results of the questionnaire (see meeting presentation). He clarified that leasing companies also contributed to the survey, and wherever the presentation refers to "Railway Undertakings," it should be understood as "Railway Undertakings and Leasing Companies."

Several participants noted that the survey results provide valuable input and highlighted the following points:

- Uncertainty regarding product readiness, as it is linked to the publication of the FRMCS specifications in the CCS TSI.
- Knowledge gaps issue, which require both financial and human resources to address.
- The need for FRMCS to meet cybersecurity and military mobility requirements.
- The importance of a synchronized deployment between trackside and onboard systems, and between ETCS and FRMCS. Uncertainty surrounding the FRMCS specifications and deployment plans is causing delays in investment decisions by some Railway Undertakings and Leasing Companies. Additionally, stakeholders are hesitant to accelerate ETCS deployment due to concerns about double investment—initially for ETCS and subsequently for updates once FRMCS becomes available.
- The EU is currently investing in satellite infrastructure to ensure sufficient satellite communication capacity. Future satellite services should be compatible with railway needs. EU-RAIL will organize a session with EUSPA to address this issue.
- The need for backwards compatibility to protect existing investments, or to explore alternative solutions. Mr. Karel Van Gils proposed that Working Group 3 (WG3) considers the aspect of different starting positions in the analysis of migration scenarios.

Mr. Karel Van Gils noted that the survey will be repeated in mid-2026, with additional questions included.

2.2. State of play (technology, legal & finance, migration scenario's, dashboard)

The coordinators of the different Working Groups (WGs)—Mr. David Rothbaum (WG1), Mr. Mario Sela (WG2), and Ms. Pipsa Hallner (WG3)—presented the current state of play of the FRMCS Deployment Group, including the work carried out and the deliverables prepared within each WG (see meeting presentation).

Regarding WG2, several participants expressed support for exploring options to simplify the authorisation process, in collaboration with ERA, with the aim of reducing associated costs. Additionally, the need to

balance the stability of the TSI with the integration of innovative solutions into the railway system was highlighted. The conclusions drawn from the WG2 discussion included the importance of alignment among the various groups working on authorisation and financial matters to avoid duplication of efforts (e.g., with ERA Working Parties). WG2 should focus specifically on Testing&Validating and authorisation activities and processes, while larger legislative activities should be streamlined within the ERA Steering Group 4th Railway Package. WG2 is expected not only to identify issues but also to propose potential solutions.

Mr. Karel Van Gils presented the dashboard of the FRMCS Deployment Group, which includes deliverables according to the planning, budget, and risk assessments (see meeting presentation).

2.3. Draft advice to ERA regarding the deployment of FRMCS (including answering ERA TO)

Mr. Pascal Désaunay explained the origin of the request for advice from the FRMCS Deployment Group (DpG) to ERA, the methodology applied, and the draft advice currently under development (see meeting presentation).

2.4. Next steps / Roadmap 2026

Mr. Karel Van Gils introduced the next steps and the roadmap 2026 of the FRMCS deployment group (see meeting presentation).

The participants confirmed that the FRMCS Deployment Group is progressing in the right direction and expressed their support for the continuation of its current approach: *[Agreement]*

- Endorsed the initial analyses, key points, concepts, and advisory direction proposed by the Working Group.
- Agreed on the way forward, including continued dialogue and information exchange with ERA and the sector, offering deployment-focused advice to radio experts through regular meetings and formal working groups.
- Supported the ongoing work within the FRMCS Deployment Working Groups, aiming for more detailed analyses, reports, and recommendations.

Ms Monika Heiming emphasised the importance of analysing the external and internal interfaces with external stakeholders, working to prevent overlaps and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and resources. *[Action: analyse the FRMCS deployment group's interfaces with other working groups, platforms, studies, etc.]*

A more detailed 2026 working plan (including Working Groups) will be presented in the next HL DpG *[Action: FRMCS deployment group Working plan 2026]*.

2.5. Other remarks

Mr. Jean-Michel Evanghelou and Mr. Wawrzyniec Perschke (Wawka) reported that significant progress had been made over the summer. The October FRMCS System Pillar Report includes updates to the timing, scope, and governance of the development process. The FRMCS Specifications V2.2 will be delivered in two phases: the functional part, to be validated by EECT, is expected in September 2025, and the system part is expected in February 2026. These specifications will be tested within the MORANE-2 framework. V2.2 doesn't cover the whole scope as defined in SP report mentioned. The FRMCS Specifications V3p, which will be close to the final version, are planned for November 2026, allowing early collaboration with EECT ahead of the final V3 specifications.

3. Alignment Large Railway Transition Deployment Programmes

Ms. Carole Coune and Mr. Ove Skovdahl presented their proposal for a study regarding the alignment of major railway transition deployment programmes (see meeting presentation).

Some participants (UNIFE, EIM and DB) expressed concerns that the proposal appeared overly ambitious. They questioned the feasibility of creating alignment among the major rail programmes (e.g. ETCS, FRMCS, ATO, DAC., ASTP), due to the divergent (financial) interests of the parties around the table.

Concerns were also raised regarding the availability of experts should additional groups be established.

It was noted that item 9 of the FRMCS Deployment Group's Remit is related to this topic and is currently addressed by Working Group 3[2]. However, WG3 is focused on FRMCS-related matters to consider synergies with the deployment of DAC or ATO, but will deliver input to such a study, if applicable.

There was general agreement that alignment across major railway programmes is a desirable objective. However, no common agreement was reached on the appropriate approach to achieve it or to the proposed study. As a result, no decision was taken at this stage. The current proposal has been returned to AERRL for further consideration.

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[2] Identify potential synergies and possible alignment with other major rail transformation programs (architecture, investments, (locomotive) retrofit activities) such as ETCS, DAC, and ATO by identifying, creating and maintaining the interfaces between the FRCMS subgroup and the relevant stakeholders involved the transformation programs.

4. European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP)

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not addressed during the meeting and postponed to the next meeting *[Action: Future of European DAC Delivery Programme]*.

5. AOB

It was agreed that the HL DpG meetings for the year 2026 will be held on 5th February, 2 July and 8 October (instead of 9th October as originally proposed).

Action List

No.	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status
1	Stimulate members to respond to the questionnaire	All members	July	Completed
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	Completed
3	Send the save the date for the HL DpG meetings in 2026	Alfonso Lorenzo	October HL DpG meeting	Completed
4	Analyse the FRMCS deployment group's interfaces with other working groups, platforms, studies, etc	FRMCS MT	February HL DpG meeting	Open
5	FRMCS deployment group Working plan 2026	FRMCS MT	February HL DpG meeting	Open
6	Future of European DAC Delivery Programme	EU-Rail	February HL DpG Meeting	Open