

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Approving the update of Flagship Initiative 4: Innovative EU high-speed rail corridors to the Annex to the High-Level Paper

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

N° 02-2026

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,

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision n°06/2025 dated 24/06/2025 approving the High-Level Paper “A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail”².

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision n°10/2025 dated 02/12/2025 approving the Annex to the High-Level Paper “A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail”³.

Whereas:

- (1) It was highlighted in the High-Level Paper on “A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail” that the Flagship Initiative 4 “Innovative EU high-speed rail corridors” will be further revised based on the strategic vision set in the Commission Communication: Connecting Europe through High-Speed Rail⁴, which provides a comprehensive plan to accelerate the development of high-speed rail across the EU.
- (2) The EU-Rail Members contributed to improving the content of the Flagship Initiative 4 “Innovative EU high-speed rail corridors” through dedicated meetings of the Executive Director-System and Innovation Programme Board (ED-SIPB) and of a specific Europe's Flagship Initiative 4 working group, including the participation and contribution from the European Union Agency for Railways and EU-RAIL States' Representatives Group Chair.

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-structure-of-governance/europes-rail-governing-board/>

³ <https://rail-research.europa.eu/about-europes-rail/europes-rail-structure-of-governance/europes-rail-governing-board/>

⁴ COM(2025) 903 final

- (3) The EU-RAIL Scientific Steering Group and the EU-RAIL States' Representatives Group were informed by the Executive Director on the work for the enhancement of the draft Flagship Initiative 4 in the Annex of the High-Level Paper at their meetings of 18.02.2026 and 19.02.2026 respectively.
- (4) As stated in recital (3) of Governing Board Decision n°10/2025 the Annex is considered as a "living" document that can be further revised in the future.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The updated Flagship Initiative 4: Innovative EU high-speed rail corridors to the Annex to the High-Level Paper "A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail", set out in the Annex to this Decision, is adopted.

Article 2

All other provisions not related to the update of Flagship Initiative 4: Innovative EU high-speed rail corridors of Governing Board Decisions n°06/2025 and n°10/2025 shall remain unchanged.

Article 3

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

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels, on 9 April 2026

For the Governing Board



Magda KOPCZYNSKA
The Chairperson

Annex: Update of Flagship Initiative 4: Innovative EU high-speed rail corridors to the Annex to the High-Level Paper "A Future Policy-Based Public-Private Partnership for Rail"