



Deployment Group - Fourth formal Meeting

5th February 2026

14:00 – 17:00

Brussels (Belgium)

Participants

1. Carole Coune	AERRL	Physical
2. Mark Remie	AERRL / Nexrail	Physical
3. Paolo Lauzzana	ALE	Remote
4. Pierre Fleury	Alstom	Remote
5. Iosu Ibarbia	CAF	Remote
6. Alberto Mazzola	CER	Physical
7. Karsten Kemeter	DB	Physical
8. Monika Heimig	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	No
14. Ralf Kaminsky	Siemens	Remote
15. Gilles Quesnel	SNCF	No
16. Thomas Joindot	SNCF Réseau /EIM	No
17. Paulo Duarte	Portuguese Railway Platform	No
18. Gemma Maria Salazar Luque	Thales	Remote
19. Susanne Skovgaard	Trafikverket	No
20. Jean-Michel Evangelou	UIC	Remote
21. Enno Wiebe	UNIFE	Physical
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	EC	Remote
30. Christof Schoser	EC	No

31. Alfonso Lorenzo Barba	Ineco	Physical
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Guests

Pau Monteagudo Martorell	ADIF	No
Alvaro Mascaraque Sillero	ADIF	Remote
Francesco Abbascia	AXIANS	Remote
Bardo Schettini	EIM	Physical
Torben Holvad	ERA	Remote
Trausmuth Rene	OEBB	Remote
Pascal Désaunay	SNCF	Physical
Ann-Sofie Atterbrand	Trafikverket	Remote
Franz Sodja	Voestalpine Railway Systems	Remote

Guests (agenda point 4)

Ralf Marxen	DB AG	Remote
Mario Sela	DB	Remote
David Rothbaum	Ericsson	Remote (partial)
Geier Ulrich	Kontron	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. Approval of meeting minutes
2. Amendment Decision N° 02/2025
3. European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP)
4. FRMCS Deployment Group Activities
 - 4.1. State of play
 - 4.2. Work Plan 2026 - 2027
 - 4.3. Programme Dashboard
 - 4.4. Advice to ERA
5. Follow up information from AERRL: Towards Coherence between Rail Deployment Programmes
6. 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 seventh meeting of the EU-RAIL High Level Deployment Group (HL DpG)¹.

Ms. Ann-Sofie Atterbrand introduced herself as a new member of the HL DPG on behalf of Trafikverket.

Mr. Karel Van Gils informed that the meeting was being recorded.

The proposed agenda was adopted.

1.1. Information from EC / EU-RAIL

Mr. Joachim Luecking stated that European Commission (EC) had no outstanding matters to report in this meeting. He added that, should attendees require information on any specific topic, he would be pleased to provide it.

Mr. Ian Conlon reported on several EU-RAIL points.

Regarding the Joint Undertaking process, he noted that the Wave 2 calls from the flagship projects were approaching their submission date, representing significant milestones for the programme.

He also informed the group of the works being done to prepare a position paper for a future European R&I programme, potential successor to EU-Rail. In this strategy more emphasis will be on pre-deployment activities, including adopting an integrated and coordinated EU-level approach to harmonisation, developing specifications, testing and validating them, and addressing broader migration and pre-deployment considerations. He highlighted that once the sector seeks to introduce change into the railway system, the main bottleneck becomes bridging this gap between innovations and commercial use at European level requires coordinated action (e.g. DAC and FRMCS).

Finally, he indicated that DG RTD (Directorate-General for Research and Innovation) will launch a website to collect evidence across all partnership programmes (Joint Undertakings), and stressed the importance of contributions from members of the associations.

1.2. Approval of meeting minutes

Mr. Wawrzyniec Perschke made several comments regarding the minutes of the previous meeting, emphasising two points. Firstly, the report from UIC and himself on the state of play of FRMCS specifications had been incorrectly placed under the heading of the FRMCS survey, even though they were separate items. Secondly, he proposed refining the conclusions on the “Coherence between Rail Deployment Programmes” to reflect more accurately the discussion held during the meeting.

Taking these comments into account, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. *[Agreement]*

¹ It was the fourth 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

All actions from the previous meeting were closed.

2. Amendment Decision N° 02/2025

Mr. Karel Van Gils explained that the HL DpG adopted the process for the setting up of dedicated groups in 2025. The request at this meeting is to amend that decision to allow experts from external entities to the HL DpG members to join the FRMCS working groups, for example, MNO experts. He clarified that the FRMCS working groups, and their members would be published on the EU-RAIL website² to ensure transparency for all. *[Action: update the FRMCS working groups and their members in the FRMCS DpG website]*

There were no comments and the proposal was agreed. *[Decision]*

Mr. Wawrzyniec Perschke informed that, from a formal perspective, the document should be validated by the Governing Board.

Legal base of the HL DpG tasks

Mr. Alberto Mazzola enquired on the legal bases allowing the HL DpG group to take decision.

Mr. Wawrzyniec Perschke explained that the legal basis of the DpG is the Article 97 of the Single Basic Act³. According to this article, the DpG shall advise the Governing Board and is open to all stakeholders, although the EC takes the final decision on the composition the group. Article 97.3 states that “*the Deployment Group shall provide recommendations on issues related to the deployment of rail innovative solutions upon request of the Governing Board. The Deployment Group may also issue recommendations on its own initiative.*” Therefore, the decisions of the DpG constitute recommendations to the Governing Board and the broader railway sector.

3. European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP)

Mr. Karel Van Gils introduced the topic of the European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP), including the proposal to be discussed at this meeting (see meeting presentation).

The following concerns were raised by the members:

- Mr. Enno Wiebe stressed the need to continue distinguish between the EDDP Supervisory Board (SB) tasks, which focuses on institutional matters (e.g. processes, regulatory framework, integration into the TSIs), and the EDDP Programme Board (PB) tasks, which focuses on business-level issues (e.g. industrial matters and operators’ topics). He supported the proposed approach to ensure continuity of these activities in an efficient manner, but highlighted the need to clarify several aspects, including the allocation, composition and name of groups, formal role and remits,

² <https://rail-research.europa.eu/frmcs-european-deployment-group/>

³ COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 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 642/2014

communication and dissemination, particularly in relation to integrating PB role and responsibilities under the DpG umbrella.

- Mr. Pascal Désaunay (SNCF) emphasised the question of funding, as the DpG does not have dedicated financial resources yet. He also mentioned a more technical issue relating to the role ERA currently has in different DAC authorisation clarification topics, and if this is still possible in the new situation.
- Ms. Monika Heimig proposed carrying out a brief assessment of risks and opportunities regarding the integration of DAC management (SB and PB) under the DpG umbrella, so that the matter could be discussed and decided in more detail at the next meeting of the HL DpG.
- Mr. Alberto Mazzola stated that CER understands the need to continue work on DAC in a similar manner to FRMCS, including deployment activities. CER supports the proposal, which he understood to mean that the PB would continue operating as it currently does (i.e. no changes to its membership or activities and being an open platform), while the HL DpG would take over the SB activities. He also proposed including the funding issue in the HL DpG advice to the Governing Board on this topic.
- Mr. Joachim Luecking (DG MOVE) considered that the EDDP activities and the proposal to continue them under the DpG umbrella are fully consistent with the description of the DpG in the Single Basic Act, and he did not see a risk of losing any current activities under this approach. He also mentioned that continuation of the Cost and Benefit Analysis stays important, as the European Commission remains concerned about the cost of the future DAC coupler system.

Mr. Karel Van Gils summarised the discussion as follows: *[Agreement]*

- The group supports the proposal to potentially bring EDDP activities under the DpG umbrella, subject to clarification of budget, leadership, remits, etc. *[Decision]*. Under pre-condition of agreement of the DAC Supervisory board and endorsed the decision to start preparational activities.
- The SB activities will be taken over by the HL DpG, and the PB will be transformed into a group similar to the FRMCS DpG.
- There is an open question on funding, that will be addressed in the further analysis and in the proposal for the next HL DpG.
- Another open question concerns whether ERA is capable of continuing with its role on the CBA as currently performed, but under the DpG umbrella.
- A risk and opportunity assessment will be carried out to support the recommendation and incorporated into the proposal for a decision at the next HL DpG meeting.

A more detailed note will be prepared for the next HL DpG meeting to enable a decision, subject to a positive decision at the March DAC SB meeting. *[Action: Prepare a clarification note, outlining the proposal for bring EDDP activities under DpG umbrella, including remits, role and responsibilities, communication aspects, funding, etc.]*

4. FRMCS Deployment Group Activities

Mr. Karel Van Gils introduced the FRMCS Deployment in a broader context (see meeting presentation).

Regarding the compatibility between ETCS BL3 and FRMCS, Mr. Wawrzyniec Perschke informed the group that the EC distributed, one week before the meeting, a paper describing the current situation, available options, and the questions that the stakeholders (e.g., Member States, Infrastructure Managers, Railway Undertakings and suppliers) are expected to answer. He mentioned that bilateral meetings with stakeholders to clarify the content of the paper and gather feedback are planned in February. Following those bilateral exchanges, a multilateral meeting is foreseen to share the input received and, hopefully, reach a common position and take a decision on this topic and the way forward.

Mr. Alberto Mazzola indicated that for CER this is a very important issue for ongoing and recently completed projects, as ensuring compatibility between ETCS Baseline 3 and FRMCS is essential to make the evolution of both systems manageable. Finding a solution is key for CER because they want to avoid completing an investment now and have to reinvest again in five years in a new ETCS or FRMCS deployment. The objective is to minimise the investment required for the evolution of ETCS and FRMCS.

Ms. Carole Coune indicated that AERRL supports CER's position, in order to avoid reinvesting a few years later in a more complete technology.

Ms. Monika Heiming thanked the European Commission for the well-prepared paper. She noted that EIM also supports the statements made by CER and AERRL. Some Infrastructure Managers are currently in the middle of their rollout and need stability and certainty regarding timelines. She emphasised that, for Infrastructure Managers, postponing decisions until the last minute in the hope that GSM-R will be maintained is not a realistic option, and that lessons learned regarding resources, knowledge, etc. should be applied. While evolution is necessary, the system and the solution must remain stable. Additionally, the system should be deployed in all countries, which represents a high-risk scenario. Investment is needed both trackside and onboard.

Mr. Karel Van Gils emphasised that these discussions highlight the presented context and preconditions that must be resolved to enable an effective deployment, clarify what is happening in the sector, and identify what needs to come together to ensure a successful rollout and (pre-)deployment. These topics should be included in the risk register and followed up in the HL DpG and Stakeholder Alignment Meeting.

4.1. State of play

Mr. Karel Van Gils, Mr. Mario Sela and Ms. Pipsa Hallner presented the work carried out by the FRMCS Working Groups (WG) and the transversal topics in the last quarter, as well as the activities planned for 2026 (see meeting presentation).

Regarding WG1, it was agreed that Mr. Karel Van Gils would ask to David Rothbaum to contact CER directly to as CER (RU) promised support on specific WG1 activities. *[Action: ask to David Rothbaum to contact CER to as support on specific WG1 activities]*

Regarding WG2, Mr. Enno Wiebe emphasised the need for alignment on authorisation topics, noting that also CER and UNIFE have a position paper on this matter. Therefore, the WG2 report should reflect the main points on which the sector can agree. Mr. Pascal Désaunay indicated that DAC is also working on authorisation topics, and that ERA has groups dedicated to this area as well. This demonstrates the necessity of coordination to avoid duplication of work and to align the different initiatives so they can support each other. Close cooperation between associations and WG2 work was agreed in the meeting.

Mr. Alberto Mazzola indicated that CER members want to see some regulatory changes and asked the EC about the European Deployment Manager in the ERTMS Master Plan. Mr. Joachim Luecking indicated that this is something discussed on the framework of the next MFF for the success of EU-Rail, but they didn't have detailed discussion on the governance of yet.

Mr. Torben Holvad presented ERA's view on the authorisation topic, indicating that WG2 could support the Task Force of the 4th Railway Package Steering Group on mass vehicle authorisation, emphasising the need for alignment and coordination among the aforementioned groups. More details on the ERA Task Force will be available following the Steering Group meeting on 10 February. Mr. Joachim Luecking clarified that the expected timeline foresees ERA delivering a proposal by June 2026, with implementation to be completed in 2027.

Considering also ERA is involved in WG2 activities, it was proposed that the Executive Director of EU-RAIL send a formal input to ERA to be considered in the context of the 4th Railway Package and mass retrofitting authorisation, including the 2025 WG2 report. *[Agreement]*

There were no comments on WG3 or transversal topics.

4.2. Work Plan 2026 - 2027

Mr. Karel Van Gils presented the Working Plan 2026-2027 of the FRMCS DpG that is available in a separate document.

No comments were raised. Therefore, the group endorsed the Working Plan. *[Decision]*

Mr. Karel Van Gils indicated that the HL DpG will be informed in the next meetings on the progress of the activities defined in the Working Plan.

4.3. Programme Dashboard

Mr. Karel Van Gils presented the Programme Dashboard (see meeting presentation).

Regarding the risk management, Mr. Karel Van Gils clarified that two matrices are envisaged: one matrix covering programme risks related to the activities of the FRMCS Deployment Group (e.g. risks linked to meeting the Work Plan deadlines, capacity, resources, etc.), and a second matrix providing an overview

of the generic FRMCS deployment risks (e.g. alignment with risks from other entities involved in the deployment process such as UIC or UNIFE).

Mr Karsten Kemeter offered to consult ERIG members on their risk assessments in order to gain a better understanding of them and to make this information publicly available, including in the Stakeholder Alignment Meeting.

4.4. Advice to ERA

Mr. Pascal Désaunay presented the background and the proposal for the advice to ERA on FRMCS deployment, which is available in a separate document. He explicated that the advice consists of two parts: the first addressing the three FRMCS deployment topics requested by ERA in Technical Opinion⁴, and the second providing additional recommendations based on input from the FRMCS Survey 2025 and WG2 analyses.

Mr. Pascal Désaunay proposed to freeze and endorse the current version of the advice to ERA, with the commitment to update the second part of the advice by integrating comments from the associations and by incorporating the results of the FRMCS Survey 2026, ideally by September. *[Action: Prepare a second version on the advice to ERA for September 2026 with comments from associations and data on FRMCS survey 2026]*

Mr Alberto Mazzola stated that CER agrees with the proposal, emphasising that the advice contains many important points. He also proposed that the document be shared more than two weeks ahead of the meeting to ensure sufficient time for obtaining comments from the management level, noting that securing management endorsement within two weeks is challenging. The group supported Alberto's proposal as a lesson learned. *[Agreement]*

The group endorsed the first version of the advice to ERA on FRMCS deployment. *[Decision]*

Mr. Karel Van Gils will request that the EU-RAIL Executive Director formally transmit the advice to ERA. *[Action: EU-RAIL Executive Director formally transmit the advice to ERA]*

5. Follow up information from AERRL: Towards Coherence between Rail Deployment Programmes

Ms. Carole Coune and Mr. Ove Skovdahl presented follow up information on the work towards achieving coherence between rail deployment programmes (see meeting presentation).

Mr Karsten Kemeter expressed his appreciation for the work being carried out by AERRL and the voluntary cooperation of other stakeholders on this topic.

Mr. Alberto Mazzola noted that in WG3 there is a point appears similar to this topic, i.e., point 9 of the FRMCS DpG remits: *"Identify potential synergies and possible alignment with other major rail transformation programs (...)"*. Mr. Karel Van Gils clarified that WG3 is dealing with coordination and give

⁴ Opinion ERA/OPI/2024-10 of the European Union Agency for Railways regarding version 2 of Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS) specifications

input in the context of the FRMCS, without being responsible for coordinating other initiatives (e.g. DAC and EGNOS).

Ms. Carole Coune indicated that they expect to deliver an output in 2026. Status reports will be presented at the July and October HL DpG meetings.

Mr. Van Gils thanked AERRL for informing the group and reiterated the open invitation to HL DpG members to join the AERRL initiative on a voluntary basis.

6. AOB

Ms. Monika Heimig informed that the next HL DpG meetings in 2026 are planned on 2nd July and 8th October. The save-the-date notices have already been sent.

Regarding dissemination activities of the FRMCS Deployment Group, Mr. Karel Van Gils informed the members that four open webinars are planned in 2026: migration scenarios (18 March), technical deployment topics, cost report and generic information (17 June), FRMCS questionnaire results (7 October) and Authorisation (16 December). All webinars will be held online from 10:00 to 12:00.

Additionally, dedicated workshops on FRMCS deployment will be held during the ERTMS ERA Conference, and also presentations at InnoTrans are also expected.

A new video on EU-Rail Deployment Group activities was shown.

Ms. Monika Heimig thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Decisions List

No Decision	Description	Decision Date
01/2026	Amendment to Decision of the High-Level Deployment Group N° 02/2025 on process for the setting up of dedicated group(s) to assist on an ad-hoc basis the High-Level Core Group	05/02/2026
02/2026	Start preparations for potential integration of the DAC EDDP activities under its umbrella	05/02/2026
03/2026	Endorsing the FRMCS Deployment group Working Plan 2026 - 2027	05/02/2026
04/2026	Endorsing advise to ERA technical opinion regarding the deployment of FRMCS	05/02/2026

Action List

No.	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status
1	Analyse the FRMCS deployment group's interfaces with other working groups, platforms, studies, etc	FRMCS MT	February HL DpG meeting	Completed
2	FRMCS deployment group Working plan 2026	FRMCS MT	February HL DpG meeting	Completed
3	Future of European DAC Delivery Programme	EU-Rail	February HL DpG Meeting	Completed
4	Update the FRMCS working groups and their members in the FRMCS DpG website	Alfonso Lorenzo	July HL DpG Meeting	Open
5	Prepare a clarification note, outlining the proposal for bring EDDP activities under DpG umbrella, including remits, <i>role and responsibilities</i> , communication aspects, funding, etc.	Karel Van Gils	July HL DpG Meeting	Open
6	Ask to David Rothbaum to contact CER for RU-support on specific WG1 activities	Karel Van Gils	February 2026	Open
7	Prepare a second version on the advice to ERA for September 2026 with comments from associations and data on FRMCS survey 2026	Pascal Désaunay	September 2026	Open
8	EU-RAIL Executive Director formally transmit the advice to ERA	Karel Van Gils	February 2026	Open