

> Return address Postbus 20904 2500 EX Den Haag

European Commission  
DGMOVE  
Sian Prout  
B-1049 Brussel  
Belgie

**Bestuurskern**  
Dir. Openbaar Vervoer en  
Spoor  
Afdeling Veiligheid en  
Internationaal  
Plesmanweg 1-6  
Den Haag  
Postbus 20904  
2500 EX Den Haag  
[www.rijksverheid.nl](http://www.rijksverheid.nl)

**Contact**

drs. H.J.Y. Groot  
*senior beleidsmedewerker*

T 070-4561678  
M +31(0)6-50662760  
F 070-3516591  
[Hinne.Groot@minienm.nl](mailto:Hinne.Groot@minienm.nl)

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corridors

**Our reference**  
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**Enclosure(s)**  
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Dear colleague,

The regulation 913/2010/EC “towards a competitive network for international freight” requires in article 14 the Member States represented in the executive boards of the rail freight corridors to adopt a Framework for Capacity Allocation (FCA). In 2015 for the first time all rail freight corridors agreed on a fully harmonized version of the FCA, I attach the final version. The FCA will be endorsed by each individual rail freight corridor following its own rules of procedure.

The intention of the harmonized FCA is to have a stable version for a longer period, especially for the priority rules included in annex 2 of the FCA. Therefore the executive boards have decided to have an evaluation of the priority rules in 2018 in a structured way. The FCA itself will be applicable from timetable 2017 onwards, rail freight corridors will discuss annually the experiences with the application and functioning of the FCA. In this way rail freight corridors may learn from the existing experiences and may also amend the FCA in a harmonized way if urgent changes are needed.

In 2016 the rail freight corridors will among other things discuss the following issues:

- Harmonized application of the monitoring annex 1;
- Experiences with applications for requests involving multiple corridors;
- Model for evaluating the functioning of the priority rule to be applied by individual rail freight corridors;
- The possibility of adding an obligation in the FCA for Management Boards to supply terminals with real time traffic information using the harmonized ICT tools (TIS);
- Harmonized application of the timescale for requesting reserve capacity defined in art 10.3.

On behalf of all rail freight corridors I want to express my thanks to the European Commission for its support in the development of the FCA. We will continue to update you on the developments of the harmonized FCA in due course. This letter is signed by the Belgian and Dutch ministries who have informally co-chaired the preparatory meetings to develop the harmonized FCA.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of all ministries of transport involved in the rail freight corridors,  
For Joannes Peeters, SPF Mobilité et Transports, FOD Mobiliteit en Vervoer, absent

  
Peter Geens, SPF Mobilité et Transports, FOD Mobiliteit en Vervoer

  
Peter Hondebrink, Ministry of Infrastructure and the environment