

# Sustainable international rail freight on Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine

- Memorandum of Understanding -

between

ProRail B.V.

and

Infrabel

and

DB Netz AG

and

Schweizerische Bundesbahnen AG (SBB),  
Division Infrastruktur

and

BLS Netz AG

and

Trasse Schweiz AG

and

Rete Ferroviaria Italiana S.p.A.

13 June 2017

## Preamble

Having regard to

- The cooperation between the infrastructure managers (IMs) and allocation body (AB) on Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine (RFC Rhine-Alpine) as agreed in the Statutes of the EEIG Corridor Rhine-Alpine EWIV and in the Frame Contract of the EEIG Corridor Rhine-Alpine EWIV, both valid from 20 December 2013
- Regulation EU 913/2010 concerning a European rail network for competitive freight as a major basis for the cooperation on RFC Rhine-Alpine
- The Sector Statement on Rail Freight Corridors (RFCs): "Boosting International Rail Freight" issued on 20 May 2016 that has been signed by the sector organisations CER, CLECLAT, EIM, ERFA, ESC, ERTMS users group, RNE, UJP, UIRR, UNIFE and with support of the chairs of the RFC Management Boards
- The Ministerial Declaration "Rail Freight Corridors to boost International Rail Freight" from 21 June 2016 in which the European Ministers of Transport express their strong support to the development of the sector

## General objectives

The signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) acknowledge that the customers in international rail freight ask for various improvements of the services of the infrastructure managers and allocation bodies in order to improve their competitiveness compared to other modes of transport. In their development of sustainable business models for the future, the railway undertakings and other applicants depend on these services which have a high impact on their business.

On RFC Rhine-Alpine the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel in December 2016 represents an important infrastructure milestone to improve the competitiveness of the rail freight business on this important north-south axis in Europe. In order to ensure that the freight customers will benefit from this structure and from other major investments along the corridor, the signatories want to speed up improvements for a sustainable international rail freight sector on RFC Rhine-Alpine. This initiative shall also benefit to the other RFCs, since many developments are not corridor specific, but need to be developed and coordinated together with all RFCs, infrastructure managers and allocation bodies in Europe also involving RailNetEurope (RNE).

The way ahead to more competitive rail freight services has been defined and agreed by the sector organisations in May 2016. In the so called "Sector Statement", CER, CLECLAT, EIM, ERFA, ESC, ERTMS users group, RNE, UJP, UIRR and UNIFE supported by the chairs of the RFCs agreed to the necessary steps towards growth in international rail freight. In this MoU the signatories generally confirm their support to the Sector Statement and the priority topics agreed with the sector organisations. The signatories declare their strong commitment to realise those improvements under the responsibility of infrastructure managers and allocation bodies. To do that, the signatories put a focus on the most important topics under their influence as detailed below.

## Focus topics for RFC Rhine-Alpine

Based on the Sector Statement and to enable best use of new infrastructure developments, the signatories set their focus on topics which will have a major impact in the next years to improve the competitiveness of their customers. The topics listed below shall be accompanied by yearly action plans to ensure the achievement of the defined goals. The yearly action plan shall be agreed and reported on in the yearly CEO meeting of RFC Rhine-Alpine.

### International path offer:

- Strong improvement of quality and quantity of the corridor's commercial offer
- Best use of current and future infrastructure capacity
- Implementation of the proposals of the RNE Task Force for improving the quality of the timetable offer

### Temporary capacity restrictions (TCR):

- Full implementation of coordination processes according to RNE guideline
- Set up a coordination process for TCR during the running timetable
- Joint information from Infrastructure Managers on RFC Rhine-Alpine to customers regarding the impact of TCR on international train runs

### Cross-border interoperability:

- Engage in improving seamless interoperability together with Railway Undertakings (RUs)/ Railway Undertaking Advisory Group (RAG), EU Commission, Ministries of Transport, European Union Agency for Railways and National Safety Authorities regarding the priority topics mentioned in the Sector Statement

### ERTMS Roll-out:

- Observe the roll-out of ERTMS on RFC Rhine-Alpine to identify crucial missing links, with specific focus on international train runs
- Identify challenges for RUs during and after ERTMS roll-out in the countries along RFC Rhine-Alpine and present the results to the respective partners (MoT, EU, NSAs) for them to take appropriate measures

#### KPIs and performance:

- Development and use of new measurement method for train performance management together with RNE
- Support from IM experts especially in the areas of operations and timetabling to solve identified punctuality problems

In addition to the focus topics, the signatories would also like to acknowledge the great significance of upgrading the infrastructure for 740 m trains and will work for the ability to offer paths for 740 m trains along the whole corridor. Last but not least RFC Rhine-Alpine supports the idea to make information on Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) available between all stakeholders in the rail freight transport chain.

RFC Rhine-Alpine shall coordinate the above activities with the RUs in the RAG.

#### Organisation of cooperation under the MoU

The achievements of RFC Rhine-Alpine on the above points shall be presented and discussed in the annual meeting of the CEOs of RFC Rhine-Alpine which usually takes place in the framework of the HLIM meeting of CER and EIM.

The Management Board of RFC Rhine-Alpine acts as steering committee on behalf of the CEOs. For each of the focus topics there is a sponsor from the Management Board.

The activities under this MoU will be executed by the existing working groups operating on the corridor and also by existing bi- and trilateral coordination groups. The development of new concepts, processes and approaches for corridor services in international rail freight shall be coordinated closely with other RFCs and IMs/ABs via RNE to find joint solutions for the sector.

The signatories acknowledge the existence of bilateral MoUs. If a bilateral MoU exists, there shall be no double activities, but a clear distinction. While the work of RFC Rhine-Alpine focuses on improvements for international rail freight services along the entire corridor and new developments for that, cooperation under the bilateral MoUs focuses on specific topics for cross-border cooperation.

#### Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until 2021. After 2021 it is extended on an annual basis unless any of the signatories terminates it three months before the end of the year by informing the EEIG Corridor Rhine-Alpine EWIV.

#### Resources and support at IMs/AB

The signatories recognise that new cross-border concepts, harmonised processes and joint IT solutions may be developed and implemented with the cooperation of experts and in coordination with the management level of the IMs/ABs. New ideas may also be tested as pilots under the coordination umbrella of RNE/RFC Network.

The signatories will consider changing internal rules, procedures and cross-border agreements to account for harmonisation and developments in the above topics so as to enable improved international services and harmonised operations. They also agree - if applicable - to include resulting modifications into their network statement.

Nothing of this MoU is to be understood as being meant to constitute a legal commitment of the signatories or to constitute a basis for legal claims against them.

Sopron, 13 June 2017

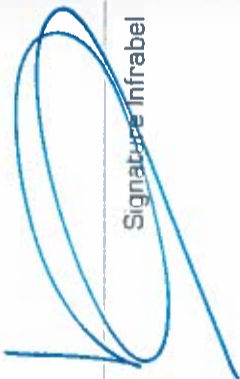
Place, Date



Signature ProRail B.V.

Sopron 13/6/2017

Place, Date



Signature Infrabel

Sopron, 13 June 2017

Place, Date



Signature DB Netz AG

Sopron, 13 June 2017

Place, Date



Signature SBB AG, Division Infrastruktur

Sopron, 13 June 2017

Place, Date



Signature BLS Netz AG

Sopron, 13 June 2017

Place, Date



Signature Trasse Schweiz AG

Sopron, 13 June 2017

Place, Date



Signature RFI

**ProRail**

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