

**Decision of the Executive board of Rail Freight Corridor Rhine
Alpine**

approving the update of the Implementation plan of the Rail Freight
Corridor Rhine Alpine

Having regard to

Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 as amended by regulation (EU) 1316/2013 Annex II of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 concerning a European rail network for competitive freight and in particular Article 9(1)

Whereas :

- The Ministers adopted the agreement regarding the Executive Board of Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine on the 8th October 2014;
- The Implementation Plan is an update of initial Implementation Plan of Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine, adopted by the Executive Board decision on 5 December 2013, and updated on 28 November 2016 with the extension of the corridor to the port of Vlissingen;
- The Executive board adopted its framework for capacity allocation on the Rail Freight Corridor in accordance with article 14(1) of Regulation 913/2010/EU by its decision of 20 November 2018;
- The Implementation Plan takes into account the recommendations 1,2 and 3 of the Network of the Executive Boards of Rail Freight Corridors, respectively, on Estimated Time of Arrival from 7 February 2018, on common Key Performance Indicators for RFCs from 7 February 2018 and on a harmonized framework for capacity allocation from 19 November 2018;
- The draft version of the Implementation plan was put into consultation with stakeholders from 24 September till 15 October 2018 and was also discussed at the Railway undertakings Advisory Group (RAG) of the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine in its meeting of 2 October 2018 in Mainz;
- The Implementation Plan takes into account the Rotterdam declaration of EU plus Norway and Switzerland Ministers from 21 June 2016 “Rail freight corridors to boost international freight” and the connected sector statement “Boosting international rail freight”;
- The Implementation Plan takes into account the declaration by transport Ministers on international contingency measures on Rail Freight Corridors Rhine-Alpine and North Sea-Mediterranean from 23 May 2018 (hereafter “the Leipzig declaration of Ministers”);
- The European Deployment Plan on ERTMS (2017/6/EU) and the connected National Implementation Plans for ERTMS give a framework for the deployment of ERTMS on the TEN-T Core Network Corridor Rhine-Alpine and is relevant for the deployment of ERTMS along the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine;
- The technical pillar of the fourth railway package, and in particular Directive (EU) 2016/797 published on 26 May 2016, gives the European framework for ERTMS trackside and On Board Units approval procedures;
- The Management board has sent the draft corridor implementation plan to the Executive board on 24 October 2018 and has modified the draft implementation plan after comments from the stakeholders and the Executive board members by 6 November 2018;

Decide to:

1. Approve the update of the Implementation Plan of the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine, annexed to the present Decision, as proposed by the Management Board;
2. Notice that, following the approval of the Implementation Plan, the Framework for capacity allocation on the Rail Freight Corridor, adopted on 20 November 2018, will

apply on the categories and specified lines of Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine, as defined in the Implementation Plan;

3. Take consideration of the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine Annual Report for the year 2017.
4. Welcome the indicative investment plan of Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine including its financing without prejudice to each Member State solely being responsible for its own infrastructure decisions and financing;
5. Rely on the ERTMS deployment plan as included in the Implementation Plan of the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine Alpine as much as possible and giving priority to (1) equipping the border zones as defined in Annex 5D of the Implementation Plan, (2) connecting the most important terminals on the corridor, (3) deploying the Rail Freight corridor Rhine-Alpine according to the European Deployment Plan without prejudice to each National Implementation Plan and national financing decision and, (4) checking national and / or corridor possibilities to the financing of retrofitting of ERTMS On Board Units;
6. Support the National Safety Authorities in the conclusion of cooperation Agreements with the EU Agency for Railways such as to facilitate the approval procedures for ERTMS trackside and On Board Units under the 4th railway package;
7. Ask the Management board to decide on and publish the rerouting lines including operational parameters as supported by the Leipzig declaration of Ministers in coordination with rail freight corridor North Sea Mediterranean;
8. Ask the Management board to report to the Executive board on progress on the execution of the Implementation Plan including the harmonized set of Key Performance Indicators agreed for all Rail Freight Corridors starting with calendar year 2018;
9. Invite the Management board, in cooperation with the Executive Board, to cooperate closely with other Rail Freight Corridors to continue the work on the implementation of the Sector Statement on Rail Freight Corridors “Boosting international rail freight” and, in particular :
 - Preparing the launch of the Time Table Redesign concept as indicated as an objective by the sector statement group to be reached by 2024;
 - cooperating with the infrastructure managers along the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine on making the operational facilitation of 740 m train length possible along the corridor and report on the progress in the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine annual reports;
10. Consider whether an update of the Implementation Plan of the Rail Freight Corridor Rhine Alpine is needed at the latest by 2021;
11. Give the mandate to the Management Board to publish the Implementation Plan and to update, in conformity to the Implementation Plan, the Corridor information document.
12. The application of this decision shall be without prejudice to the competence of the Member States regarding planning of and funding for rail infrastructure.

Signed in Brussels, on 20 November 2018, in English
The present decision takes effect the day following the date of its signing.



Pierre Bodiaux

Alternate Member of the Executive board Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine for Belgium



Stefan Nagel

Alternate Member of the Executive board Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine for Germany



Paola Mellone

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