

**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

**The Executive Board of the Railway Freight Corridor Rhine
Alpine**

07 December 2023

Having regard to

Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 as modified by regulation (EU) 1316/2013 Annex 1 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(2)

Whereas:

- The European Commission has published the evaluation of the rail freight corridor regulation 2 June 2021 SWD (2021) 134 final.
- The European Commission has proposed to align the rail freight corridors with the TEN T network and strengthen its governance in December 2021 (COM(2021)812 and 820. Part of this proposal is merger of rail freight corridors Rhine Alpine and North Sea Mediterranean into a new European Transport Corridor;
- The European Commission has proposed to redesign the EU framework for capacity allocation in COM(2023)443;
- The Ministers adopted the establishment agreement of railway freight corridor Rhine Alpine on the 8 October 2014;
- The Implementation Plan is an update of the initial Implementation Plan of rail freight corridor Rhine-Alpine, adopted by the Executive Board decision on 5 December 2013, updated on 28 November 2016 with the extension of the corridor to the port of Vlissingen, and on 20 November 2018, in 2019 the RFC was prolonged to the port of Ghent/Terneuzen (part of North Sea Port) as a connecting line, in 2020 the new Ceneri Base Tunnel was added to the RFC routing. The implementation plan was updated 2 December 2021 to take into account ERTMS deployment updates;
- The Executive board adopted its framework for the allocation of the infrastructure capacity on the freight corridor in accordance with article 14(1) of Regulation 913/2010/EU by a decision signed on 20 November 2018. Switzerland is in the process of replicating Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 in its national law;
- The Implementation Plan takes into account the recommendations 1,2 and 3 of the Network of Executive Boards of the EU Rail Freight Corridors on Estimated Time of Arrival from 7 February 2018, Key Performance Indicators from 7 February 2018 and harmonized framework for capacity allocation from 19 November 2018;
- The draft version of the Implementation Plan was put into consultation with stakeholders and includes all information available up to 30 October 2023;
- The Implementation Plan is closely aligned with the orientations set out in the Rotterdam Declaration of EU Ministers plus Norway and Switzerland of 21 June 2016 "Rail Freight Corridors to Boost International Freight", the associated sector declaration "Boosting International Rail Freight" and the Berlin Declaration of 21 September 2020 "Rail Freight Corridors: The future of rail freight in Europe";
- The Implementation Plan is also closely aligned with the orientations set up within the Leipzig declaration of Ministers from the railway freight corridors North Sea Mediterranean and Rhine Alpine on contingency management from 23 May 2018;
- 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 TEN T core network corridor Rhine Alpine (Rotterdam / Antwerp – Cologne - Basel - Genoa) and is relevant for the deployment of ERTMS along the railway freight corridor Rhine Alpine. The European Deployment plans and the connected National Plans prevail over the corridor implementation plan. Updates of national implementation plans are expected in 2024 according to the regulation 2017/6/EU;
- The technical pillar of the fourth railway package and in particular directive (EU)2016/797 as published 26 May 2016 gives the European framework for ERTMS trackside and On Board Units approval procedures;

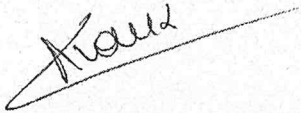
- Having regard to the 2019 cooperation agreements between National Safety Authorities and the EU Agency for Railways (ERA) to i.e. facilitate the ERTMS track site approval and On Board systems;
- The executive board submitted its art 22 biannual report on (2020-2021) progress of the rail freight corridors in June 2023 to the European Commission;
- The draft corridor implementation plan has been sent to the Executive board by 24 November 2023.

Decide to:

1. Approve the update of the implementation plan of 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 the allocation of the infrastructure capacity on the 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 corridor Information Document Book 2;
3. Take consideration of the annual report 2022 and art 22 annual report of the Executive board of Rail Freight Corridor Rhine Alpine;
4. Welcome the first results of the quality core group and endorse and where feasible support the 3 selected priority actions (improved data sharing, standard rerouting, corridor capacity strategies) to improve quality of rail services;
5. Welcome the indicative investment plan of Rail Freight Corridor Rhine Alpine including its financing, but insist that each Member State remains responsible for its own infrastructure decisions and financing;
6. Welcome the updated ERTMS roll out plan for the corridor lines and the information relevant for the migration of ERTMS On Board systems;
7. Ask the Management Board to report to the Executive Board on progress on the execution of the implementation plan including the targets set for the harmonized Key Performance Indicators;
8. Request the Management Board to cooperate closely with Rail freight corridors North Sea Mediterranean and other railway freight corridors to continue the work on implementation of the Rotterdam sector statement "Boosting international freight"

Date, Place, Signature 7/12/2023, The Hague

Caroline Avaux
Member of the Executive Board Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine for Belgium



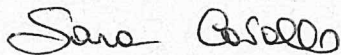
Date, Place, Signature 7/12/2023 Den Haag

Wolfgang Bannasch
Member of the Executive Board Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine for Germany



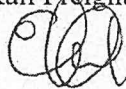
Date, Place, Signature 22/12/2023

Sara Cavallo
Member of the Executive Board Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine for Italy



Date, Place, Signature Den Haag 7/12/23

Ebru Akdag
Member of the Executive Board Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine for the Netherlands



Date, Place, Signature The Hague, 7.12.2023

Matthias Wagner
Member of the Executive Board Rail Freight Corridor Rhine-Alpine for Switzerland

