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European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Presentation of the fourth Progress Report of the Platform on International Rail Passenger Transport (IRP)
– Information from the Dutch and Austrian delegations

Delegations will find attached an information note prepared by the Dutch and Austrian delegations on the above-mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 18 June 2024.

TTE Transport Council on 18 June 2024

AOB: Presentation of the fourth Progress Report of the Platform on International Rail Passenger Transport (IRP)

Information from the Dutch and Austrian delegations

1.1. The IRP Platform

This Integrated Progress Report of the Ministerial Platform on International Rail Passenger Transport (IRP) sets forth the progress made, over the 2023 – 2024 period, regarding the ministers' declaration of the Ministries of Transport of the EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway. During the Transport Council on June 4, 2020, the European countries embraced the initiative to work on a common agenda aimed at fostering and supporting the improvement of international railway passenger transport in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders. As a result of the political declaration, a joint platform of the EU Member States¹, Norway and Switzerland was set up to further facilitate discussions. In 2022, the United Kingdom acceded as an observer. The platform is supported by sector parties and the consumer organisations including BEUC / European Passenger Federation (EPF). It also involves representatives of the European Commission, European Union Agency for Railways, OTIF, and EU-Rail. Panteia supported the Platform in drafting the fourth progress report.

1.2. Progress

The Platform concentrated its work in 2023 /2024 on monitoring the results in the international rail passenger market and on the progress made in the various barriers to be solved for an accelerated market development.

¹ With the exception of Cyprus and Malta.

Monitoring results

The development of international rail services has been monitored by all platform members. Data on the development of 4 key market segments were collected:

- Regional cross border rail passenger transport;
- Long distance cross border rail passenger transport;
- High speed cross border transport;
- Cross border night trains.

The report highlights a considerable positive developments regarding the number of night trains and also high speed trains cross border, and a further 10-20% in cross border passenger trains is to be expected in the next 4 years. The capacity of cross border high speed trains can be estimated at 50mln passengers annually already. This shows a positive trend and contribution of cross border rail to sustainable transport.

Customer experience and digitalization

The key issue is improving the availability of international rail ticketing for passengers. The rail industry is progressing step by step with voluntary actions (OSDM and NetEx). As regards OSDM, pilots are prepared but grand scale introductions are still to come. At the regulatory site the European Commission has postponed the publication on the proposal for Multimodal Digital Mobility Services and is working in 2024 on a standard on telematics to be applied for rail ticketing. Overall the issue is high on stakeholders' and regulators' agendas, but is waiting for a breakthrough.

Horizontal topics affecting development of international rail passenger services

Major developments took place to support international rail services by 2 regulatory frameworks under development at the EU level:

- The update of the Trans European Networks regulation with a new extensive core network for 160kmph suited infrastructure by 2040;
- A revision of the framework of capacity allocation aimed at improving timetabling for international service.

In addition, information is included on progress of the 10 pilots for new international rail services from the European Commission.

The Platform furthermore worked on examples / pilots for intermodality with air, road and waterborne transport. New intermodality initiatives are highlighted in the report.

