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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council

Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the <u>Transport</u> , Telecommunication and Energy Council on 5 June 2025
	Presentation of the fifth Progress Report on the Platform on International Rail Passenger Transport (IRP)
	- Information from the Austrian and Dutch 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 2024 – 2025 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 States, 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 fifth progress report.

1.2. Progress

The Platform concentrated its work in 2024 /2025 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.

Monitoring results

All platform members have monitored the development of international rail services.

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 development (6% more cross-border services and 21% more cross-border trains) regarding the number of cross-border night trains and high-speed trains. In addition, more services are expected to be launched in the years ahead. 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 is expected to launch proposals on rail ticketing and Multimodal Digital Mobility Services.

Overall the issue is high on stakeholders' and regulators' agendas.

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;
- The ongoing revision of the framework for 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.

Conclusively, the IRP has designated a working group to further develop the Monitoring Scheme in the coming years. The process is currently in its initial stages.
