

**PRIME 17 Plenary Meeting
24 June 2021**

Publication of the external KPI and Benchmarking Report

From: PRIME Co-chairs

– For Decision –

1. INTRODUCTION

Monitoring and benchmarking rail infrastructure's performance, sharing best practices and developing cooperation between the infrastructure managers in Europe are the key objects of the Platform of Rail Infrastructure Managers in Europe (PRIME).

The new external benchmarking report of the PRIME KPI & Benchmarking Subgroup, presenting 2012-2019 data, has been prepared and shared with the 18 participating infrastructure managers. We would like to thank the KPI and Benchmarking Subgroup, and in particular the subgroup chair, Rui Coutinho, and the technical support of Civity Management Consultants, for this achievement.

About the report

The report follows last year's objective in providing a comprehensive report with more detailed explanations and contextual information to make the wealth of data more accessible. Much effort has been put into ensuring that the quantitative results can be interpreted meaningfully with the main influencing factors taken into account, such as operating conditions, geographic characteristics, economical context and political circumstances. With one new participant and a more complete dataset it continues its positive development.

We believe that PRIME data and definitions can serve the needs of a large range of rail experts and policy makers. By measuring and sharing the results, we aim to demonstrate to the wider public that the rail sector is committed to improving its service provision.

As this report covers data up to 2019, it does not yet show the impacts of the pandemic. This report can however be considered the last "regular" report in the sense that it shows the industry development before the various distortions of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this respect, this report can be a good data reference to compare developments before and after the pandemic.

Main findings

With the European Green Deal, the European Commission has set out to become carbon neutral by 2050. To reach that goal, rail will have to take up a bigger share of the transport system. Rail infrastructure managers work hard to provide safe, reliable, green, smart and

affordable railway infrastructure for the transport of people and goods. The report gives a relevant insight on indicators covering these dimensions.

Some important achievements are visible: the majority of the infrastructure managers increased their safety performance in the last years, which is particularly positive as safety is among the top priorities in transportation. Decreasing figures in the share of diesel-powered trains show that rail itself aims to become greener and takes steps towards it. More than 80% of the infrastructure manager's train kilometres are run on electricity. To achieve the European Commission's objective to double rail freight traffic by 2050, freight still needs a serious boosting. PRIME data shows that its development remains an important objective of the infrastructure managers.

2. PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The report is planned to be published on the PRIME website on **28 June 2021**, and shared with international stakeholders such as EIM and CER. The Commission intends to tweet on the publication. (@Transport_EU).

For IMs that would wish to communicate more largely within their countries, a communication kit has also been prepared that can provide useful input to national IMs' communication teams.

IMs will discuss at the Plenary the possibility of organising a dedicated webinar to present the report to the public.

3. ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS

Participating Infrastructure Managers should confirm, at the Plenary meeting, their agreement with the publication of this report. If there are any further observations you would like to share, please do so ahead of the Plenary by email.

Contact: Dariusz.Kowsar@sncf.fr; Kathrin.OBST@ec.europa.eu;