

**PRIME Meeting 15**  
**18 November 2019, Brussels**

**Item 8.2 - Information points:**  
**Update on the Evaluation of the Rail Freight Corridors Regulation**

*From: EC*

***– For Information –***

**1. INTRODUCTION**

For a general overview of the evaluation see the fiche distributed for the 14<sup>th</sup> PRIME Plenary meeting; this fiche only provides an update.

**2. PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

The next steps for the evaluation are as follows:

- 1) Open public consultation launched on the Commission' dedicated website ([https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-1375253\\_en#plan-2019-5077](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-1375253_en#plan-2019-5077) ), consultation period: from November 2019 to 4 February 2020 (13 weeks);
- 2) Evaluation study has been launched, the targeted, in-depth consultation of stakeholders will be carried out in Q4 2019 and Q1 of 2020;
- 3) Evaluation report in the form of a Staff Working Document (Q2/early Q3 2020);
- 4) Presentation to the European Parliament and the Council.

**3. THE EVALUATION STUDY**

The updated timeline for the study is:

- 1) Study design (Q4 2019);
- 2) Evidence collection (Q4 2019 – Q2 2020) – including stakeholder consultation;
- 3) Evidence analysis (Q1 2020 – Q2 2020);
- 4) Synthesis (Q2 2020).

**4. THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS**

Infrastructure Managers will play a key role for the quality of the evaluation study and for the evaluation proper. They should participate actively, especially by contributing to the evaluation study. In the terms of reference for the study, the Commission requested a number of in-depth case studies, one of which will focus on the process of setting up an international rail freight service. This will require committed involvement from IMs. IMs will

also need to cooperate in the analysis of almost every aspect of the evaluation and in addition to their opinion, it would be very beneficial, if they can also provide evidence and especially data to the contractor, notably regarding the quantity and quality of the capacity (trains paths and their properties), capacity restrictions, traffic management.

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