

PRIME Meeting 15
18 November 2019, Brussels

Item 8.8 - Information points:
Shift2Rail II: update on the programme

From: EC

– For Information –

1. OBJECTIVES AND BACKGROUND

Funded under Horizon 2020, the S2R JU has already achieved positive effects by bringing many players to work together towards common goals, helping to overcome fragmentation in the market and create continuity of research goals in line with the Commission's policy priorities.

Rail stakeholders are calling for continuing the partnership under "Horizon Europe", the next EU R&I programme for 2021-2027. S2R-2 (under the name "Transforming Europe's rail system") is one of the candidate partnerships being currently subject to an impact assessment under the coordination of DG RTD, with DG MOVE providing DG RTD with all necessary inputs in preparation for the new proposal. The Commission has approached sector's associations to work on a coordinated input that will be the basis for future cooperation under the new partnership on the future of Europe's railway system. An additional study, under the coordination of DG MOVE will look into rail research needs and will contribute to the Master Plan of the future rail partnership.

The candidate rail partnership is part of the "Climate, Energy and Mobility" cluster within pillar 2 of the Commission's proposal for Horizon Europe, which is currently negotiated with Council and Parliament. The proposed budget for the "Climate, Energy and Mobility" cluster is €15 billion.

To ensure a smooth transition from S2R to S2R-2 in terms of transfer of knowledge, administrative burden, and human resources and avoid a gap between S2R and S2R-2, the activities of the latter should ideally start straightforward in 2021.

The new partnership will further leverage on the broadest possible representation of the sector both in terms of stakeholders (industry, RUs, IMs, urban), size (big players, SMEs) and geography. As regards strategic planning to define multiannual work programmes and calls for proposals, the Commission will involve stakeholders in the design of R&I actions, and

seeks to enhance transparency, prioritisation and flexibility to align to political priorities, as well as internal programme coherence and synergies with other programmes.

2. IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS

Infrastructure Managers are expected to play a more important role in the future rail partnership. IMs may have the chance to provide additional inputs in the context of the ongoing support study coordinated by DG RTD and the upcoming one under the lead of DG MOVE. In particular, the Commission and the contractors working on the two support studies will approach IMs for further input on priorities and governance. IMs' input to various stages of this process is vital in order to deliver a S2R-2 which delivers genuinely what they need.

NEXT STEPS

- End of 2019/early 2020: submission of Impact assessment draft to Regulatory Scrutiny Board.
- Early 2020: adoption of Commission proposals for new Partnerships.
- Early 2021: Launch of new Partnerships under Horizon Europe.

For issues you would like to discuss with DG MOVE directly, please get in touch with Mihaela WILLIAMS (Elena-Mihaela.WILLIAMS@ec.europa.eu) and Leonardo DONGIOVANNI (leonardo.dongiovanni@ec.europa.eu).