

PRIME Meeting no 11

16th of November 2017, Brussels, BE

Annex to item 5 – Subgroups and meetings – feedback and plans **Charges subgroup**

Subgroup chairs: María Álvarez (ADIF) and Sian Prout (DG MOVE)

- For Information -

The first meeting of PRIME Charges Sub-group was kindly hosted by LatRailNet in Riga on the 21st of September. Experts from infrastructure managers (IMs), representatives of CER, EIM and of the European Commission (COM) DG MOVE attended the meeting (aprox 40 people).

The session was co-chaired by Sian Prout (DG MOVE) and María Álvarez (ADIF).

As introduction they shared the PRIME General Presentation and presented the objectives of the Charges Sub-group.

Alain Quinet, PRIME industry co-chair, emphasised in his opening address (delivered via a live video link) that this Sub-group could address different topics as cooperation between IMs on the charges they impose to international traffic; sharing views on implementation of direct costs, as a priority; optimising performance of the network; choice of charging parameters; charges on services facilities; coordination on mark-ups and relationship with other PRIME Sub-groups.

Co-Chairs explained to the participants the formal status of PRIME under the 4th Railway Package (obligation for main IMs of all Member States to participate in a European network of rail infrastructure managers) and the remit of this new charging group.

Other issues shared in this session were:

- The Sub-group working procedure (meeting twice a year, maximum three topics per session).
- DG MOVE made two presentations, the first on the legal framework for calculating direct costs and the second a synopsis of a pre-meeting questionnaire returns on how IMs calculate the costs that are directly incurred as a result of operating the train service (nine IMs sent back this information).
- Topics for next meetings: As the questionnaire had not reached all participants, it would be recirculated and responses could still be submitted to COM for incorporation into the follow-up discussion on composition of direct costs. Other possible topics could be minimum information to be published in the network statement, cooperation on mark-ups on international lines and performance schemes.

Due that this session was the first contact between members, there is still room for improvement as regards communication and engagement between participants. To achieve this we will propose IMs the following actions:

- Promote active participation at the level of charging experts and encourage IMs to make presentations of those aspects that they might want to share with other IMs or COM.
- Provide support and guidance to IMs on how to understand and implement EU Legislation in terms of charges.
- Where relevant, invite external charging experts (academia) to present their views.

Upcoming events

Next PRIME charges subgroup meeting will be held in Brussels on the 11 of April 2018
