

## **PRIME Meeting no 14**

**13 June 2019, Bern, CH**

### **Annex to item 7 Information points: RFC-CNC Cooperation on infrastructure priorities**

*From: EC*

***– For Information –***

#### **1. OBJECTIVES AND BACKGROUND**

Boosting international rail freight is a long-term objective endorsed by the Commission, Member States and the railway sector itself. It is also an ambition which the Rail Freight Corridors (RFCs) and the Core Network Corridors (CNCs), as complementary tools of EU transport policy, aim to pursue.

Infrastructure development is a key area where a stronger cooperation between RFCs and CNCs can be fruitful and contribute to successfully boosting international rail freight transport. Indeed, in a context of budgetary constraints, whereby investments need to be prioritised, RFCs are in an excellent position to provide input for such a prioritisation. Indeed, with a comprehensive governance structure, RFCs bring together public authorities, infrastructure managers as well as infrastructure users such as railway undertakings.

To this end, a letter has been sent by the Commission to the chairs of the Executive and Management Boards of the RFCs and the Managing Directors of the RFCs. The objective is to encourage stronger cooperation between RFCs and CNCs to better address the needs for infrastructure development and thus lead to a meaningful boost of international rail freight transport.

#### **2. EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION**

Infrastructure managers RFCs are invited to report on their respective infrastructure needs at the meetings of the CNC fora in November 2019.

In order to strengthen the market and user perspective in infrastructure development, we expect the management boards of the Rail Freight Corridors to consult the Railway Undertakings Advisory Group on infrastructure priorities along the corridors.

#### **3. NEXT STEPS**

RFCs are invited to consult railway undertakings on their infrastructure needs and submit their contributions to the corridor fora by **14 October 2019**. All relevant analysis and studies produced should also be provided.

We encourage you to engage in an active dialogue with the Rail Freight Corridors as your primary interlocutor for this initiative. In addition, the rapporteurs for priority 7 of the Sector

Statement Group, Hinne Groot of the Dutch ministry and Jürgen Maier-Gomlay of BLS<sup>1</sup>, may also be involved in certain corridors.

For issues you would like to discuss with DG MOVE directly, please get in touch with Reinhard HALLER ([reinhard.haller@ec.europa.eu](mailto:reinhard.haller@ec.europa.eu)) and Vassil ZHIVKOV, ([vassil.zhivkov@ec.europa.eu](mailto:vassil.zhivkov@ec.europa.eu)) and the advisors to the EU Coordinators for the Core Network Corridors concerned (see [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure_en)).

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.cer.be/publications/latest-publications/progress-report-sector-statement>