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Redesign of the International Timetabling Process (TTR): Strategic significance

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Current timetabling process not in line with market requirements

Current timetabling process





Consequences: low efficiency / quality

- Freight RUs requesting paths without knowing all of their transport assignments
- The higher the network utilisation, the higher the need for "phantom" requests
- Swiss north-south freight transport: one-fifth of the requested paths cancelled before TT change
 - Inefficient: solving of virtual path conflicts
 - Loss of quality: limited scope of action during conflict coordination phase; trains not on the best possible path
 - Restrictive effects on competition: RUs with high shares of traffic can easier adapt their production concept to the allocated paths



Consequences: Limited cross-border harmonisation

- Path catalogues and requests mostly harmonised
- Short time for path elaboration and conflict resolution \rightarrow parallel planning
- Effect: best possible national solutions, but NOT for the overall itinerary



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The approach of TTR

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- More efficient timetable elaboration (Path Elaboration, Observation Phase) due to an intensified preparation phase (Capacity Strategy, Capacity Model)
- Internationally harmonised capacity strategy
 - Well in advance coordinated Temporary Capacity Restrictions (TCRs) as one element of this harmonised capacity strategy
 - Internationally coordinated periodical review considering developments
- **Two request methods** for two market segments with different requirements
 - Annual request deadline with earlier allocation
 - Rolling planning method for requests at any time within four months before the first train run
 - Capacity safeguarding for market segments (capacity partitioning)

The impact of TTR

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- Better market orientation
- Improvement in quality
 - No more "phantom" requests blocking capacity \rightarrow better path offers
 - Rolling planning enables sequential planning → cross-border-harmonised path offers
- Improvement in efficiency
 - No unnecessary coordination of "phantom" requests by IMs
 - Internationally harmonised capacity strategy \rightarrow optimised capacity utilisation
 - Rolling planning \rightarrow less peaks in workload
 - Rolling planning with multiannual capacity confirmation up to 3 years →
 Higher reliability, less investment risks for new transport services
 - Internationally harmonised and well in advance communicated TCRs → lower production costs for RUs



Challenging implementation

- TTR is promising, but also challenging
- The Swiss experience with capacity strategy and safeguarding: Involvement of all instances concerned as key success factor
 - Passenger transport RUs
 - Regional authorities ordering PSO transports
 - Freight sector representatives (appointed by the sector)
 - IMs, allocation bodies
- TTR is a common project of IMs (RNE), RUs (FTE, ERFA) and even supported by Forwarders (ERFA)

