

PRIME Meeting no 10 **12 June 2017, Sopron, HU**

Annex to item 9 – Implementation of charging principles

Further cooperation of IMs on implementation of the charging rules - PROPOSAL FOR CHARGES SUBGROUP

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– For discussion and decision –

BACKGROUND

In order to comply with the updated EU rules (Directive 2012/34/EU and Implementing Regulation 909/2015), charging systems in many countries are currently undergoing a review, therefore this is an opportune time to share challenges as well as best practices on how to develop an effective charging scheme and how to better manage this transition. In this scenario, we have decided to propose you to set up a Charges Subgroup within PRIME.

We should take in account that there is already an informal Charges Group called CHRISTINE (Charging in Rail Infrastructure in Europe) made up of experts of 17 European countries that meet once a year to share information about costs scheme, discounts and mark-ups within the charging system and market segments. Their experience would be very useful for this new Charges Subgroup.

Additionally, on the 3rd of February 2017 a charging workshop took place between PRIME and the European Network of Rail Regulatory Bodies (ENRRB) to discuss and share experiences on the application of infrastructure charging principles, in particular market segmentation, use of mark-ups and cross-border coordination. This workshop demonstrated the need for further cooperation between infrastructure managers (and regulatory bodies) as regards charging.

OBJECTIVE

This new Subgroup would help us to get a clearer idea of how to ensure compliance between infrastructure managers' charging systems and EU Legislation, in order to guarantee optimal competitiveness of international rail services and ensure the efficient use of the railway networks.

REMIT

The remit/scope of the Subgroup will be to enhance cross-border cooperation between infrastructures managers and share best practices in terms of charging policies within

the legal framework established by the EU as referred in Directive 2012/34/EU (Art. 29 to 36) and to discuss the application of cooperation in relation to charging systems on more than one network as foreseen in Article 37.

There is no intention to harmonize TAC across Europe, but to have a clearer and common understanding of what it means to ensure compliance with current EU Legislation and the charging principles every IM has to respect. This might also form the basis for future discussions between PRIME and ENRRB on this subject.

The issues that would be treated in this Charges Subgroup could include the calculation of direct costs, choice of charging parameters, definition of market segments and mark-ups, performance schemes.

OPERATIONS

This Charges Subgroup would be co-chaired by the Industry and Commission and its working basis would be two one-day-meetings per year. The meetings should be split in an IM-only session and a session where the Commission is presented to share and discuss the agreements and conclusions reached.

ADIF stands ready to uptake the role of the Industry co-chair.

→ **PRIME members are asked to discuss the proposal and decide on the creation of the Charges Subgroup, on its remit and industry chairmanship.**