

Efficient & Green MOBILITY

Action plan to boost long-distance and cross-border passenger rail





A shift to rail for a climate-neutral continent

We need to shift long-distance travel to more sustainable transport modes, particularly rail.



Rail has a much lower carbon footprint than other transport modes....



... and the potential to be powered completely by renewable sources!



PASSENGER RAIL – KEY FIGURES

Proportion of cross-border traffic (EU27, 2018)



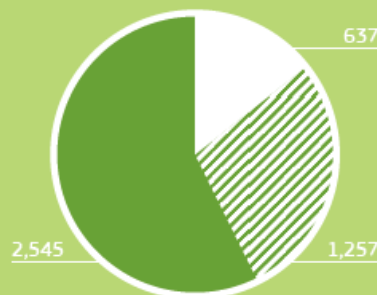
7%
Passenger traffic



52%
Freight traffic

Long distance cross-border passenger trains PER WEEK

2001



2019



SERVICE TYPE

Conventional High Speed Night



95%
increase in high speed cross-border services



65%
decrease in night cross-border services



1%
increase in total cross-border services



AMBITIOUS MILESTONES

To achieve economy-wide climate neutrality by 2050 (-55% by 2030) in line with the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy:

- By 2030:
 - high-speed rail traffic will double;
 - scheduled collective travel of under 500 km should be carbon neutral within the EU;
- By 2050:
 - high-speed rail traffic will triple;



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

1) Better implementation of the Union rail acquis and accelerated interoperability

Extract of concrete actions:

- accelerate the work to ensure implementation and correct application of the four railway packages, including for removing redundant national rules and deployment plans for TSIs;
- propose the acceleration of the roll-out of ERTMS in the revision of the TEN-T Regulation;
- propose a revision of the Technical Specifications for Interoperability in 2022;
- continue to support equipping infrastructure with ERTMS;
- leverage the work of Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking. Faster deployment of innovation through the system pillar;
- discuss the possibility to exempt public financing of ERTMS from the notification obligation under State aid rules;
- further support by ERA with advice, technical proposals, recommendations and elimination of national rules.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

2) A strengthened infrastructure for passenger rail

- new high quality infrastructure for passenger rail;
- more ambitious standards and implementation deadlines;
- a minimum line speed of 160 km/h for the core and the extended core network;
- a strong focus on the delivery of the core network by 2030 and further planned high-speed rail connections in the extended core network to be realised by 2040;
- particular emphasis on first/last mile connectivity through multimodal passenger hubs in all EU cities above 100,000 inhabitants that are connected to the TEN-T network;
- strengthening of air-rail connectivity for all core EU airports and EU airports above 4 million passengers.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

3) Sufficient rolling stock availability

- seek with the EIB eligible pilot projects to acquire rolling stock under the Green Rail Investment Platform / InvestEU;
 - prepare “go-everywhere” passenger rolling stock specifications, in cooperation with ERA (a TSI deliverable expected for 2022);
 - clarify by 2023 the State aid rules on public funding of interoperable rolling stock for cross-border services in the revised Railway Guidelines;
 - continue supporting the fitting and retrofitting of rail vehicles with ERTMS;
 - promote the ratification of the Luxembourg Rail Protocol to the Cape Town Convention and support its implementation within the EU.
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- The EIB plans to launch the Green Rail Investment Platform, to finance, among other things, rolling stock.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

4) Bringing train drivers and railway staff training and certification in line with future needs

- propose in 2022 a revised regulatory framework for train drivers, addressing the shortcomings of the existing regime;
- promote policies and programmes to up-skill and re-skill staff and to ensure that future skills needs are met;
- use the 2022 Year of Youth to highlight the attractiveness of the rail sector for young talent.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

5) A more efficient use of the networks

- assess the need and propose if necessary regulatory action in 2022 to improve capacity allocation and traffic management processes;
- consider a Union-level entity overseeing the optimisation of cross-border rail traffic and coordination mechanisms for its better integration to the national traffic.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

6) Appropriate pricing for track access

- provide guidelines in 2023 for setting track access charges which support and encourage the development of long-distance and cross-border passenger services;
- actively promote pilot projects to explore whether a reduction of track access charges to direct costs levels could better support the set-up of cross-border services;
- consider, in the context of the revision of the Railway Guidelines in 2023, the possibility to exempt the public financing of the reduction of track access charges from the notification obligation under State aid rules.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

7) User-friendly ticketing and access to the rail system

- propose a Regulation, for 2022, on multimodal digital mobility services to enhance data exchange between mobility providers and facilitate the conclusion of fair commercial agreements, including journey continuation and protection in case of missed connections for passengers travelling on combined separate tickets;
- monitor the compliance with the new Rail Passenger Rights Regulation, once it becomes applicable in June 2023.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

8) A level playing field with other transport modes

- Work with Parliament and Council to facilitate a swift adoption of the proposals in the 'Fit-for-55 package';
- Assess the need for an EU-wide VAT exemption for international train services;
- Support and promote air-rail multimodal journeys on routes where the suitable infrastructure is in place to deliver such services, and assess regulatory options to facilitate such multimodal services.



10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

9) Public Service Obligations to promote sustainable cross-border and/or multimodal collective transport

- publish interpretative guidelines in 2022 for applying the Land PSO Regulation, including to long-distance and cross-border rail passenger services and to promote and support the development of sustainable multimodal land transport services.

10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

10) Empowering youth

- consider amending Erasmus reimbursement rules to promote the use of sustainable modes of transport to Erasmus exchange locations.





10 ACTIONS TO BOOST PASSENGER RAIL

Actions can be tested by the rail sector in pilot projects:

- Proposals from sector from 2022
- Commission to support by facilitating contacts, providing assistance, investigating support through CEF (technical assistance, studies, preparatory activities for new technologies / innovation)

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Thank you for your attention

