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8th Florence Rail Forum

Rail Infrastructure and Rolling Stock: Investments, Asset Renewal and Regulation

organised by

**Chair of Management of Network Industries, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
Florence School of Regulation Transport Area, European University Institute**

Villa La Fonte
Via delle Fontanelle 18, San Domenico di Fiesole

28 April 2014

■ **OVERVIEW**

The 8th Florence Rail Forum will address the complex relationship between regulation, asset renewal and investments in both railway infrastructures and rolling stock. More concretely, the question is whether regulation is favouring or impeding such asset renewal and investments and how exactly these complex relationships play out in practice.

With regard to regulation, concerns about the need for clear rules aimed at favouring investments in the railway sector on a pan-European scale have been voiced by many railway stakeholders on several occasions. Among others, the 7th Florence Rail Forum touched upon the challenges to rail regulation in Europe, and many voices rose in favour of more stability in regulation. In fact, railways, needing by definition long-term investments, especially require legal stability. Furthermore, in the Single European Railway Area envisioned by the European Commission, particular attention is put onto “the removal of remaining administrative and technical barriers, in particular by establishing a common approach to safety and interoperability rules to increase economies of scale for railway undertakings active across the EU, decreasing administrative costs and accelerating administrative procedures, as well as avoiding disguised discrimination”.

Consequently, both operators and manufacturers should be able to extend the scope of their activities. However, the lack of standards and legal certainty leads to high investment costs, which in turn hamper asset renewal, investments and innovation. ERTMS may be an interesting case in point.

During this 8th Florence Rail Forum we will discuss the opportunities and impediments to asset renewal, investments and innovation in the European railway sector in both infrastructure and rolling stock as they relate to the current European regulatory framework and future regulatory policies. More precisely, we will try to answer the following questions:

- Infrastructure. European and national regulation: which are the regulatory obstacles for more investment in infrastructure maintenance and modernisation?
- Infrastructure. How to overcome the investment gap? Best practices and possible solutions?
- Rolling-stock. Are railway operators limited in their business approach? Did the shrinking public funding and the presence of new rail operators impact on innovation?
- Rolling-stock. How does current and planned European regulation influence asset renewal, investment and innovation in rolling-stock?

■ PROGRAMME

08.30-08.45 Introduction to the Forum
Matthias Finger | Professor EPFL, and Director of FSR-Transport/EUI

A *Infrastructure: European and national regulation, which are the regulatory obstacles for more investment?*

08.45-10.15 **Thomas Kaufmann** | DG MOVE (European Commission), Principal Lawyer
Irina Michalowitz | OEGB, Director European & International Affairs
Sofie Freilev | European Rail Infrastructure Managers, European Affairs Manager
Round Table Discussions

10.15-10.45 COFFEE BREAK

B *Infrastructure: how to overcome the investment gap?*

10.45-12.15 **Frank Miram** | DB, Director Regulation Management
Garry White | Network Rail, Head of European and Strategic Affairs
Günter Knieps | University of Freiburg, Professor
Round Table Discussions

12.15-13.15 LUNCH BREAK

C *Rolling-stock: are there alternative approaches to investments in rolling stock?*

13.15-14.30 **Nicolas Fourrier** | SNCF, Director
Laurent Letessier | Transdev, Projects Director
Howard Rosen | Rail Working Group
Giulia Mauri | Rail Working Group
Round Table Discussions

D *Rolling-stock: how does regulation influence asset renewal and investment in rolling-stock?*

14.30-15.45 **Ichiro Takahashi** | EJRC, Executive Director Brussels Branch
Andrea Cesarini | FS, Head of Regulatory Affairs
Keith Bastow | Arriva, Executive-Business Development
Maria Price | International Union Wagon Keepers, Manager of European Affairs
Round Table Discussions

15.45-16.00 COFFEE BREAK

16.00-17.00 Conclusion of the Forum
Matthias Finger | Professor EPFL, and Director of FSR-Transport/EUI
Olivier Onidi | DG MOVE (European Commission), Director Unit B "European Mobility Network"