

9TH FLORENCE RAIL FORUM

Discussing the 4th Railway Package: Which role for markets in domestic rail passenger transport?

Organised by the Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation

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

12 December 2014

■ CONTEXT

The fourth Railway Package was proposed in 2013 and forms part of a series of regulatory initiatives to create a more efficient and connected European rail sector.

The six proposed legislative initiatives that the package is composed of will be the most important items on the European Commission's agenda in the area of railways regulation. Several elements of the package have not yet reached a consensus by all parties and negotiations are ongoing.

The 9th Florence Rail Forum will continue the discussion on the future shape of the European Rail sector with high level representatives from institutions, regulators operators and academics. The elements of the 4th Railway package are central to this debate: the 6th Florence Rail Forum had addressed the issue of overcoming barriers to standardisation and interoperability and the 8th Florence Rail Forum looked at the financing component of the fourth Railway Package. The 9th Florence Rail Forum will pay special attention to the issue of market opening in rail passenger transport.

One of the key elements of the 4th Railway Package is the opening of competition in the respective national passenger markets. It is foreseen that all national passenger routes shall be fully open to competition by December 2019.

As far as commercial lines are concerned the main challenge is to guarantee fair and open access to the network in particular in countries where these are part of vertically integrated railway undertakings.

As far as Public Service Obligations are concerned the package foresees an amendment of Regulation 1370/2007, including a common approach to awarding public service contracts. The Commission foresees a differentiation between smaller scale contracts which may be directly awarded to an operator and larger contracts which will have to be opened for competitive tendering.

To facilitate this, an important role will have to be played by the national regulatory authorities. The fourth Railway Package suggests to extend their role and to strengthen their power, as they would have to define and justify the Public Service Obligations and make their reimbursement to the operator(s) transparent.

The debate will be structured around four guiding questions

- ① The Fourth Railway Package under negotiation – where do we stand?
- ② Liberalisation of national passenger markets – which way forward for competitive lines and PSO?
- ③ Tendering of PSOs: what are the remaining challenges?
- ④ What role for the regulators?

■ PROGRAMME

- 08.30-08.45 Introduction to the Forum
Matthias Finger | FSR-Transport and EPFL
- Session 1** *The 4th Railway Package under negotiation: where do we stand?*
- 08.45-10.45 **Elisabetta Garofalo** | DG MOVE, Unit Single European Rail Area
Chris Nash | ITS Leeds
Johann Metzner | Deutsche Bahn, Transport Policy Europe
Jacques Prost | IRG-Rail
Round table discussions
- 10.45-11.15 **COFFEE BREAK**
- Session 2** *Liberalisation of national passenger markets – which way forward for competitive lines and PSO?*
- 11.15-13.00 **Roberto Piazza** | Italian Transport Regulatory Authority, Office for Infrastructure Access Regulation
Nicolas Fourrier | SNCF, Railway Strategy and Regulation Department
Juan J. Montero | UNED Madrid
Round table discussions
- 13.00-14.00 **LUNCH BREAK**
- Session 3** *Tendering of PSOs: what are the remaining challenges?*
- 14.00-15.45 **Didier van de Velde** | TU Delft
Brigitte Ollier | UITP, European Department
Irina Michalowitz | ÖBB, European and International Affairs
Andrea Cesarini | Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, Office of Regulatory Affairs
Round table discussions
- 15.45-16.00 **COFFEE BREAK**
- Session 4** *Round table discussion and conclusions about the role of the regulators*
- 16.00-17.00 **Elisabetta Garofalo** | DG MOVE, Unit Single European Rail Area
Matthias Finger | FSR-Transport and EPFL