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11TH FLORENCE RAIL FORUM

THE DIGITAL SINGLE EUROPEAN RAILWAY AREA: HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Organised by: Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation, RSCAS,
European University Institute

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

27 NOVEMBER 2015

■ CONTEXT

The completion of a digital single market is one of the 10 priorities of the Juncker Commission. It is time to make the EU's single market fit for the digital age and let citizens, businesses and governments fully benefit from the power of the information and communication technologies. The digitalisation of rail is part of this broader goal as well as an essential contribution to the completion of the Single European Railway Area.

Rail stakeholders have been working for many years to introduce digital solutions to the sector. Yet, there is a need today to revisit this rather piecemeal approach of the past in light of the most recent ITC developments. At the 11th Florence Rail Forum we aim at taking stock of the state of where railway stands in matters of digital developments and define the necessary steps that need to be taken in order to the unleash the full potential of digital technologies in the railway sector. Furthermore, we aim at identifying the challenges that still remain and gather inputs and suggestions on how to address them in the short as well as well as in the medium-term.

The railway system as a whole will benefit from the completion of the Digital Single European Railway Area: it will simplify internal processes, intra-modal communication between railway undertakings and infrastructure managers, and communication between railway undertakings and customers and suppliers and others more. Journey planning, certification, service, cross border operation, and track maintenance will directly benefit from the digital innovation in terms of greater efficiency, more safety, and better quality of service. Moreover, digitalisation will bring added value to the railway sector, as railways are part of a wider mobility system; digitalisation will also contribute to decarbonisation, to efficiency and transparency, and to better connectivity enabling a seamless multimodal European transport network.

Every element of the railway system is concerned by digitalization: rolling stock, infrastructures, signalling systems, interfaces with customers have already started to introduce digital elements into their daily operations. However, as technology evolves, new challenges emerge. Discussion at the 11th Florence Rail Forum will be driven by the following initial questions:

- Why digitalisation? What are the main benefits that digitalisation will bring to the sector and what are the customers' expectations?
- What has been already achieved in terms of digitalization of the railway sector? Examples of digital solutions
- What are the regulatory challenges posed by digitalization?
- What are the long-term challenges? Privacy, security, safety, data protection, etc.

■ PROGRAMME

- 08.30-09.00 **Introduction to the Forum**
Matthias Finger | Professor, Director of FSR-Transport and of the Chair of Management of Network Industries, EPFL
Olivier Onidi | Director for European Mobility Network, DG MOVE
Kathrin Obst | Policy Officer, DG MOVE Unit Single European Rail Area
- A** **Question 1: Why digitalisation? What are the main benefits that digitalisation will bring to the sector and what are the customers' expectations?**
- 09.00-10.30 **Andrea Camanzi** | President of the Italian Transport Authority
Fumio Kurosaki | Researcher, Institute of Transportation Economics
Ichiro Takahashi | EJRC Brussels
Victor Vaugoin | Head of European & International Affairs at ÖBB
Round table discussions
- 10.30-10.45 **COFFEE BREAK**
- B** **Question 2: What has been already achieved in terms of digitalization of the railway sector? Examples of digital solutions**
- 10.45-12.30 **Alice Polo** | Senior Interoperability and Safety Manager, UNIFE
Germano Guglielmi | International Affairs, Ferrovie
Markus Basler | Deputy Head of Digital Transformation at Swiss Federal Railways, SBB
Round table discussions
- 12.30-13.30 **LUNCH BREAK**
- C** **Question 3: What are the regulatory challenges posed by the digitalization of the railway sector?**
- 13.30-15.00 **Joseph Doppelbauer** | European Railway Agency, Director
Juan Montero | UNED Madrid
Nicolas Fourrier | Directeur stratégie ferroviaire et régulation SNCF
Round table discussions
- 15.00-15.15 **COFFEE BREAK**
- D** **Question 4: What are the long-term challenges? Privacy, security, safety, data protection, etc.**
- 15.15-16.45 **Markus Ksoll** | Leiter Wettbewerb und Ordnungspolitik, Deutsche Bahn
Jarl Eliassen | UITP European Department
Luigi Rucher* | Thales Italy Ground Transportation
Round table discussions
- 16.45-17.00 **Conclusion**
Matthias Finger | Professor, Director of FSR-Transport and of the Chair of Management of Network Industries, EPFL
Olivier Onidi | Director for European Mobility Network, DG MOVE