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Transport ministers of the June 2020 ministerial declaration
on international rail passengers
European Commissioner for Mobility Vălean
ERA, executive director, Josef Doppelbauer
Europe's Rail, executive director Carlo Borghini
OTIF, secretary general, Wolfgang Küpper
Copy: chairs of the Sector Mirror Group international rail

Bestuurskern

Dir. Openbaar Vervoer en
Spoor
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Our reference

IENW/BSK-2022/104963

Enclosure(s)

1

Date May 30, 2022
Subject Progress Report following the ministerial declaration
2020 on International Rail Passengers Transport

Dear Sir/Madam,

Developing the international railway passenger market is a priority issue which deserves strong and continued cooperation at European level. Reliable and well-developed cross-border services in rail are necessary in order to reach the climate goals. With this letter we submit to you the 2nd progress report of the platform International Rail Passenger Transport (IRP). It is based on our ministerial declaration from 4 June 2020 and the first progress report from 3 June 2021¹.

We welcome the continued strong cooperation with the European Commission, EU Agency for Railways ERA, Europe's Rail and OTIF and in particular the Action Plan² on long distance and cross border rail passenger services submitted by the European Commission on 14 December 2021. This action plan does highlight the need of an EU agenda to support this important market. For a continued strong cooperation we suggest the European Commission to present the progress on this action plan to the Transport Council in December 2022. In this way, continued strong cooperation on developing international rail passengers transport is supported.

The IRP progress report includes the main results, conclusions and follow-up actions in the topics from the indicative workplan from 2021. On rail ticketing, both voluntary sector actions and the discussion for regulatory progress are addressed, to boost international rail tickets distribution at short to medium term. On the development of a network of international rail passenger services, important instruments in capacity allocation are addressed. The needs of the market for night train services are described. There was strong participation and support for developing a broader EU approach on air – rail cooperation where rail has the potential to partly replace short-haul flights. To support the application of the existing regulatory instruments in line with EU legislation, recommendations are developed to support the development of open access services and where necessary application of cross-border PSO-contracts.

¹ See <https://www.permanentrepresentations.nl/documents/publications/2021/06/03/better-rail-connections-for-europes-passengers>

² COM(2021) 810

With this letter we also thank the ministries who took a leading role, in consultation with the whole platform, in developing the different chapters of the report; the representatives of the Belgian, French, German, Italian and Slovenian ministries. In parallel, the results of the cooperation of the European rail sector stakeholders and consumer organisations on the agreement³ for journey continuation, are encouraging and are an important building block for strong sector development of the international railway passengers market.

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Yours sincerely,

The Dutch Minister for Environment,



V.L.W.A. Heijnen, MA

The Austrian Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology,

Leonore Gewessler, BA



³ See CIT. Website <https://cit-rail.org/en/passenger-traffic/products/#content-286519>