

## **Report from DG MOVE PRM Advisory Body 2 Oct 2018**

Elisbaeth Kotthaus made a short presentation about matters being prepared. She was invited especially to the meeting and left after her presentation. According to her presentation some of our required improvements will be considered in the proposal.

Keir Fitch and Mr Dongiovanni referred to the research going on in Horizon Europe concerning energy, public transport and health. S2R is continuing to 2022. They also referred to the process in EP and the Council in 2021. There will be a decision in the RISC Committee late 2018. Nothing will be decided on high level before the EP elections in May 2019. The proposals from the ERA WP will be discussed late 2019, probably in spring 2020. Most items are already finished (but next meeting will discuss the door closing signals – a comment that did arouse smiles around the table)

The EDF made a statements that the Inventory of Assets process is important, especially since accessibility also includes self-service for PRMs, wishing to be as independent as possible. The representative from EIM (European Infrastructure Managers) asked about what method will be used for information about the quality in the stations – equally one of the main topics from the EPF point of view. My comment on that was that there is a need for a specified responsible authority or coordinating body for the station services for PRMs and for all passengers. There is a need for a mandatory rule about that.

Keir Fitch raised the topic about the work of the Advisory Body. The answer from the delegates from the users was unanimously that what cannot be handled on the ERA level has to be treated by a higher level, and DG MOVE has an important role to fulfil. The NSA representatives (ministerial representatives from the MS national safety authorities) were totally neutral, not giving any point of view. Actually the NSA representatives always seem uninterested in the topics of PRM as well as of the dynamic development that can improve the competition strength for the railways. Keir Fitch underlined the importance of PRM topics.

The Advisory Body has the task to monitor the process, and the meeting shall be relevant and consultative for DG MOVE. I mentioned from EPF side the need for a Commission decision on a mandatory station manager, since ERA is not able to decide on that. The plan is to arrange at least one meeting a year for the Advisory Body, but another meeting can be held when a need occurs. Initiatives are

welcome. Keir Fitch said that DG MOVE wants to know if there is a need to intervene in the process. EDF formulated that there is much talk, but we need things to be done. A special delegate from NL Pro Rail (infrastructure Manager) underlined the need for consultation with stakeholders and that best practice must be focused. He also mentioned that NL government has decided on a 500 million euro project for accessibility. EDF commented that the NSA in no country has invited the stakeholders for consultation. (I can confirm that from Sweden)

In the meeting Marie Denninghaus EDF made a presentation of the UN Convention, that strongly influence our process.

The general impression was that it was the delegates that lead the meeting. One of the items mentioned was the need to advance to a multi-modal attitude. AGE underlined that best practice is an important method that should not be disregarded.

There are approximately 35 000 stations in Europe (railway, underground and tram). Some of the MS mention the speed of upgrading 100 station per year in their country. Of course most stations are small, and many PRM trips are without protests redirected to a bigger station nearby. A minimum of 1000 passengers a day seems realistic as a rule for basic quality.

In a recent court verdict a on a new built tram stop in Linz was decided not according to the accessibility rules since there was only written information and no spoken information.

Next meeting will be held during spring 2019 together with the DG for social affairs

Next internal DG MOVE Advisory Body meeting will be held in October 2019.

Kurt Hultgren, 12.10.18