



**Memorandum of Understanding between
the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking
and the
Ministry of Transport
of the Czech Republic**

2018

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Concluded between

The Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (the "S2R JU"), with its seat at Avenue de la Toison d'Or 56-60, B-1060 Brussels/Belgium, represented by its Executive Director, Mr. Carlo M. Borghini
and

the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic, with its seat at Nabrezi Ludvika Svobody 12, P. O. Box 9, 110 15 Prague 1, Czech Republic, represented by Minister Mr. Dan Ťok

(Hereinafter referred to as "the Parties, or individually "the Party")

Have decided as follows:

Preamble

Research & Innovation is one of the priorities for the Programming Period 2014-2020.

Horizon 2020 is the EU framework programme for research and innovation (further referred to as "Horizon 2020"). The projects funded from the Horizon 2020 shall respond to its priorities - Excellent Science, Industrial Leadership and Societal Challenges including Smart, green and integrated transport.

ESIF, the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), and the Horizon 2020 all seek to ensure coordination, facilitate synergies and leverage complementarities. To achieve this, it is crucial to align strategies and implementation modalities with a view to support and complement existing and future roadmaps.

The main challenge for the programming period 2014-2020 and after is to strengthen overall coherence in favour of innovation, competitiveness and economic actors, especially but not exclusively of small and medium-sized enterprises that constitute an essential factor of the European competitiveness. In this respect, ESIF, CEF and Horizon 2020 allow the articulation of the necessary mechanisms for consistency within the regional strategies of so-called smart specialisation, which foster excellence and place research and innovation at the heart of public investment.

This should provide for a better understanding amongst innovation actors, better information for beneficiaries, and an increased coordination between public authorities.



Therefore,

Considering the strategic role of the S2R JU as the major European Public Private Partnership Programme of research and innovation in railways;

Considering that Council Regulation (EU) No 642/2014 of 16 June establishing the S2R JU provides that it should seek to develop close interactions with ESIF, CEF and Horizon 2020 that shall help to strengthen local, regional and national research and innovation capabilities in the area of Shift2Rail and underpin smart specialization efforts;

Considering that Council Regulation (EU) No 642/2014 of 16 June establishing the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking states that the S2R JU must encourage the participation of SMEs in its activities;

Considering that, in order to respond to the above provisions, the S2R JU wishes to foster enhanced bilateral contacts with the Czech Republic while ensuring the respect of its principles and rules;

Considering the importance of introducing the use of European funds for the financing of the railway research and innovation for the future of the railway industry through an interaction and combination with the ESIF which is currently required by the applicable European regulations;

Considering that the Czech Republic regards innovation and competitiveness as the heart of its economic development policies;

Considering that the Czech Republic wishes to promote and support the complementarity and synergy between the European funds and Horizon 2020 in connection with the regional and European actors;

Considering the level of participation and of interest of the SMEs/regional industry/other actors in the Shift2Rail Programme and in the calls launched by Shift2Rail under Horizon 2020, and the strategic role of the Czech Republic in the support of smart specialization in the railway sector, and correlated sectors such as R&I in general, competitiveness, environment, materials etc.

Declare as follows:

A. Scope

The scope of this Memorandum of Understanding is to promote cooperation between the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and the Czech Republic, with a focus on:

▪ **the identification of common priorities and potential synergies between funding instruments through:**

- Regular exchange of information;
- Participation of the Czech Republic in the "Info Day" or similar events organized by the S2R JU as stated in Council Regulation (EU) No 642/2014 of 16 June;
- The participation of the S2R JU, or a designated representative, to the events organized by the Czech Republic under the theme of railways, particularly in the information days designed to promote the participation of actors from transport industry, infrastructure managers, regulatory bodies, railway supply, research centres and academia to European programmes, and in meetings/working groups focused on the themes of smart specialization in combination with rail bound transport and research and innovations that are in line with the strategic documents of the Czech Republic and the EU and targeting particularly on:
 - development and implementation of new technologies and materials in the area of rolling stock and rail infrastructure;
 - modal shift from road to rail and promotion of mobility, logistics and multimodality with reduced environmental impact;
 - increase of safety, reliability and efficiency of rail transport, incl. autonomous trains;
 - increase of passenger and freight rail transport attractiveness for the current and potential customers by means of the IT tools use where the Czech Republic organizes meetings/working groups with industry and where regional stakeholders ("Shift2Rail Platform") wish to be involved and on which the Czech Republic wishes to organize dedicated meetings to identify synergies.

▪ **the identification of synergies among programmes through:**

- successive/sequential projects that build on each other or;
- parallel projects that complement each other, making use of national or EU funds, subject to the respective rules of participation, and which are of interest of the Czech Republic and the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking. This may result in combining funding for research and innovation activities as well as real time large-scale demos and deployment coordination.



B. Areas of Cooperation

Establishing of procedures and working arrangements between their instruments and frameworks to accompany the railway sector by promoting synergies and complementarities between the European funds managed by the S2R JU in the railway research and innovation and the other European funds:

- in particular, by identifying the complementary areas of activities initiated and foreseen under the competences of the S2R JU and the activities covered by the Operational Programme Transport; or
- by coordinating their activities related to the Connecting Europe Facility

Establishing a monitoring and follow-up system of the actions carried out under the framework of the National Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Czech Republic:

- By associating the S2R JU, or a designated representative, with working groups of smart specialization related to railway, in particular:
 - Platform Shift2Rail of the Czech Republic
 - EU Agency for Railways (ERA)

Joint assessment of the possible complementary activities related to innovative projects proposed by the economic or academic actors in the Czech Republic and selected by the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking, in view of an industrial development in the region under the applicable regional framework;

Promotion of respective mechanisms through an information policy aimed towards economic and industrial actors:

- As a result of an online update, on the website of the Czech Republic and the website managed by the Czech Republic, of relevant information regarding the launched calls for projects by the S2R JU;
- By a mutual enhancement of the mechanisms of both structures for the support of communication Platform Shift2Rail of the Czech Republic and the Newsletter "Railetter" published by the S2R JU, and other publications.

C. Other provisions

The Parties may meet annually to review the state of cooperation and evaluate the achievement of the objectives set herein and their future perspective.

The present Memorandum of Understanding does not construe any legal obligations and rights.

The Parties shall implement the present Memorandum of Understanding in good faith and agree to address any dispute in an amicable way.

Rules on conflicts of interest apply in accordance with the rules on conflicts of interest and confidentiality of the bodies of the S2R JU.

The parties will ensure the protection of any sensitive information and the confidentiality of any internal document and information related to the parties or the participants to the technical activities under the present Memorandum of Understanding.

D. Entry into force and validity

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force from the date of its signing by both Parties. It shall be renewed automatically for a period of one year, unless either of the parties notifies the other party of its intention to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding six months before it expires at the latest.


Place and date:

On behalf of the S2R JU

**On behalf of the Ministry of Transport of
the Czech Republic**

Mr Carlo M. Borghini
Executive Director

Mr Dan Ťok
Minister



3/12/2016

