European Union Agency for Railways comment on document RSPG16-044 "[Draft] Opinion for public consultation on Spectrum Aspects of Intelligent Transport Systems"

Dear Radio Spectrum Policy Group,

The European Union Agency for Railways welcomes the draft opinion for public consultation on Spectrum Aspects of Intelligent Transport Systems, where in particular considerations are given on next-generation railway communications system to replace GSM-R.
The Agency has had the opportunity to explain to the ITS Working Group the background and conditions to the need for a replacement system after GSM-R, and is thankful to the WG that the explanations have been taken into considerations.
We are generally satisfied with the opinion, especially as it recognises the complexity of the transition from GSM-R to its successor and that additional spectrum will help to cope with the migration.

However, as interoperability of the rail system and the establishment of a Single European Railway Area are very important objectives in the EU policy, the Agency considers that it is not sufficient that Railways are invited to consider options for migration with the relevant administrations. While we agree it is crucial for rail stakeholders to investigate with their transport and spectrum administrations the conditions for migration, the Agency would like to promote investigations on how to facilitate those objectives by means of spectrum coordination at EU level. From that perspective, the work currently under preparation at ECC/CEPT level in a dedicated Project Team on railway spectrum will enable fruitful discussions between railway, telecom and regulation actors to converge on such a possibility.

The Agency would therefore kindly ask RSPG to take into consideration the possibility to emphasize the need for coordination at EU level on spectrum solutions to cope with the transition from GSM-R to its successor.

Best regards,

Thomas CHATELET
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Project Officer

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