Public Consultation

Draft opinion RSPG ITS (inc.rails)

Comments from France

France supports the draft opinion on ITS but notes, in relation with the Recommendations on spectrum for next-generation of railway communications systems, that, although the suitability of options of future railways does vary across Member states, it may be misleading to ask rail operators to consider the options directly with the relevant administrations. France notes that the next-generation of railway communications systems is expected to be defined at the European level by 2022 to enable a seamless transition from 2022 to 2030, as GSM-R will not be supported by the industry beyond 2030. This new communication system will need to be pan-European, given the importance of interoperability and safety as a political and technical priority for the European railway sector, so that spectrum for railway will need to be decided at the European level.

As indicated in the draft opinion, there are many spectrum options for the next generation of railways communications systems. Therefore, one cannot take for granted any of this option. However, if there are reasonable and proportionate actions to facilitate investigation of any of the options, they should be considered positively. Therefore France would like to support the following add-on to point 6 on the recommendation for the next generation railway communication systems, and to add a point 7:

6. RSPG notes that the global spectrum demand for future rail systems remains uncertain, and will depend on the traffic and innovative applications to be accommodated and on national situations (ie, only train/track signalling and voice, or train/track video communications, rail network density, cross border corridors).

7. RSPG notes that European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and its evolutions are a political and a technological priority for the European railway sector. Spectrum harmonisation is essential and is a prerequisite for the interoperability and safety of railway operations in Europe.