Joint declaration of the ERTMS Stakeholder Platform

The Members of the ERTMS Stakeholders Platform and the European Organisations of the Railway Sector express their renewed commitment to the ERTMS Program, welcoming the ambitious targets in the revised TEN-T Regulation, and their support to the central role of the EU ERTMS Coordinator

This declaration defines common objectives to:

- form the basis of the renewed joint and public commitment to ERTMS – e.g. a joint declaration from the members of the Platform at InnoTrans 2024 followed by an update of the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding
- support the ERTMS deployment targets as laid down in the revised TEN-T regulation supported by a strong implementation at national level
- provide guidance for activities of the ERTMS Stakeholder Platform and its possible subgroups.

The purpose of the ERTMS Stakeholder Platform is:

- to create a common vision and commitment to coordinate and cooperate in a transparent manner to promote the further ERTMS roll-out, to facilitate alignment and to foster coherence at EU level of the individual strategies and actions.
- to avoid duplication of existing working groups or activities.
- to analyse how far existing activities could incorporate measures, and if new activities (working groups) are necessary for remaining measures.

The ERTMS Stakeholder Platform [1]is not an expert group devising and monitoring specific actions, but it acts at the strategic and decision-making level to streamline overall coordination, to ensure an overall commitment, to define priority topics and to provide a general orientation to achieve progress on these topics.

At strategic level the proposed objectives are to:

- Improve interoperability and operational performance of the EU railway system with an accelerated ERTMS roll-out, enabled by more cost-efficient signalling solutions ensuring more efficient operations and especially cross-border
- Promote a stronger coordination on European ERTMS governance and Programme Management also by supporting the ERTMS Coordinator

[1] The ERTMS Stakeholders Platform has also a defined role enshrined in the ERTMS MoU 2016

- Strengthen cooperation between stakeholders while acknowledging and respecting the interests and constraints of the various stakeholders.
- Ensure commitment of stakeholders for their area of responsibility to achieve the agreed objectives.
- Promote harmonisation of requirements and standardisation of equipment
- Promote the efficient implementation of authorisation and approval processes to ensure a more streamlined and efficient deployment of ERTMS solutions

These strategic objectives can be broken down into the Target areas to address:

- Agreeing on measures to address cost drivers, by taking a holistic view, considering the entire value chain and deriving sustainable solutions;
- Promoting the development and implementation of standardised CCS solutions (based on harmonised operational requirements, excluding national and company specific technical requirements) leading to an accelerated roll-out of ERTMS in EU;
- Efficient application of regulations,
- Agreeing on stable and predictable migration strategy principles, considering visibility of longer-term evolution of technical specifications for ERTMS and introduction of innovations, building on the definition of compatibility already enshrined in the 2016 MoU;
- As a key task of the Stakeholder Platform, helping and supporting the System Authority ERA in aligning and managing changes to the specification of the system, in particular those with impact on the existing installed base to safeguard investments.
- Promoting and supporting the essential role of Europe's Rail System Pillar to facilitate the specification management by ERA;
- Supporting the targets for roll-out of ERTMS and the decommissioning of class B systems as defined in the revised Regulation on trans-European transport networks (TEN-T);
- Supporting the ERTMS Coordinator in his role towards Member States and stakeholders, benefitting from the revised TEN-T Regulation, including an overarching deployment strategy;
- Promoting sufficient, stable and predictable non discriminatory financial support (at EU and MS level) or other financial measures to support the roll-out;
- Supporting cross-border cooperation of stakeholders, for example through accelerating the conclusion of cross-border agreements,
- Making proposals leading to the building up of industrial and general sector capacity, development of an attractive railway market for industry, to achieve a swift Europe-wide ERTMS roll-out and the timely developing of the products and solutions.

The above formulated objectives will form the building stones for an updated Memorandum of Understanding that has a full sector endorsement.

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