

First meeting of the Scientific Committee of Shift2Rail JU

28 May 2015

DG MOVE, Brussels, Meeting room DM28, 00/54

9:30-13:00

Final minutes

9:30 – 9:35	Introduction
	<p>The Executive Director (ad Interim) of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU), Mr Economou, welcomed the members at the first meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) and explained that he will have to act as Chairman pending the election of the Chairperson, foreseen to take place at the end of the meeting. A list of participants is attached (Annex 1).</p> <p>He also clarified that in line with the Founding regulation¹ the JU will remain under the responsibility of the Commission and its interim Executive Director until the time at which it fulfils the conditions for financial and operational autonomy.</p> <p>The Chair recalled that the purpose of this first meeting was to provide to the Committee an overview of the development of the S2R JU, to adopt the SC rules of procedure, to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair, but also to discuss the S2R work plan for 2015-2016 and give an Opinion thereon as requested by the Founding Regulation.</p>
9:35 – 9:45	Welcome address
	<p>In addressing the meeting, the Commission, represented by Ms Kopczynska (Director DG MOVE C), welcomed the establishment of the SC and recalled the importance of its role in strengthening research and stimulating the innovation in the railway sector.</p> <p>She pointed out that the S2R JU was officially established less than a year ago and since then considerable progress has been achieved, bearing in mind the complex processes and procedures, which are related to the setting up phase of a JU. She explained that similar difficulties have been faced by other JUs as well, which were able to launch activities only two years after their establishment.</p>

¹ Council Regulation (EU) No 642/2014 of 16 June 2014 establishing the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking

	<p>She referred to the areas where progress was clearly made, such as the call for the selection of associated members, the endorsement of the Master Plan by the European Council, the launch of the first research projects under H2020 with links to S2R, the legal and financial framework for the establishment of the JU, recruitment of the first JU staff etc.</p> <p>She stressed that a number of important issues were currently under discussion, such as the development of the S2R Work Plan for 2015 and 2016 and that it was the appropriate time for the SC to provide their input.</p> <p>Ms. Kopczynska explained that the two advisory bodies of S2R JU, the Scientific Committee and the States Representative Group (SRG) should be seen as complementary, bringing both the scientific and the national authorities' advice in the activities of S2R.</p> <p>Finally, Ms. Kopczynska noted the importance of disseminating the information concerning S2R's activities and noted that the SC members should contribute in making their role visible to the stakeholders.</p>
9:45 – 10:10	Introduction of the members of the Scientific Committee
	<p>The SC members made a brief introduction of their expertise and expressed their willingness to contribute to the work of the SC.</p> <p>Mr. Economou informed that in line with the transparency provisions of the S2R Regulation, the names and short resume(s) of the Scientific Committee members will be published on the S2R website; they will also be communicated directly to the SRG, which specifically requested for this info.</p>
10:10-10:15	Approval of the draft Agenda
	<p>The SC members agreed on the draft agenda, which had been circulated on 7 May 2015 (Annex 2).</p>
10:15-10:30	Role of the Scientific Committee
	<p>The SC took note of the information provided by the S2R JU on the role and tasks of the SC as an advisory body of the S2R JU.</p> <p>Answering to questions on SC's contribution to a possible future update of</p>

	<p>the Master Plan, Mr. Economou clarified that the Master Plan is a stable version that has been endorsed by the Council and approved by the S2R Governing Board. However, this is not cast in stone and updates would be possible when necessary, in line with the Founding Regulation. The JU will define much more in detail the objectives of the Master Plan in a document jointly agreed by the Members, Multi Annual Action Plan (MAAP) and the SC will need to be involved in reviewing the MAAP.</p> <p>Following information that the ERRAC Scientific Advisory Group provided comments on the S2R Master Plan and that the document contains useful information on past and on-going R&I activities on rail research, it was agreed that S2R JU will investigate with ERRAC the possibility to share the document with the SC, for further consideration at a next meeting.</p>
10:30-11:00	Discussion and adoption of the rules of procedure
	<p>Mr. Economou recalled that in accordance with Article 13(7) of the S2R Statutes, the SC should adopt its own rules of procedure.</p> <p>The SC members discussed the draft Rules of Procedure as prepared by the S2R JU and proposed a small number of amendments, which were made to the document during the meeting. The SC members unanimously adopted the rules of procedure as amended (Annex 3).</p>
11:15-11:45	Information on the state of play of the S2R JU + Q&A
	<p>The Chairman presented the latest developments related to the activities of the JU and in particular with regard to the call for Associated Members, the establishment of the SRG, the recruitment of staff, the housing of the JU, the JU's Annual Report for 2014 and the adoption of the S2R Master Plan. He then replied to specific questions raised by the SC members.</p> <p>In reply to a comment that blue sky/basic research is insufficiently covered in S2R Master Plan, the Commission pointed out that this type of research could be tackled by the open calls of S2R JU. It also indicated that the SC can play a role on this in the process of reviewing the MAAP.</p> <p>Responding to questions on SC's interaction with the evaluators of the project proposals to be funded by S2R JU, Mr Economou explained that in line with the Rules of Procedure, the SC cannot be involved in the evaluation of project proposals and that due to reasons of confidentiality it is not possible to reveal information which concerns a competitive process. He highlighted that the SC will be consulted on the higher strategic documents such as the Annual Work Plans from where the call</p>

	<p>topics will be originating or the MAAP.</p> <p>Answering a question on the relation of the Scoping Paper vis-à-vis the S2R Master Plan, and on how binding the Scoping Paper should be for the candidate Associated Members (AMs) in their 2nd stage submissions, the S2R JU clarified that the Scoping Paper was prepared by the Executive Director of the S2R JU, in collaboration with the 8 founding members (other than the Union) and should be understood as an informative document providing a first attempt of prioritisation of R&I activities to deliver the objectives of the S2R Master Plan. As mentioned in the call documents for the selection of the AMs, the candidates may submit complementary or competing proposals to the areas identified in the Scoping Paper. The S2R JU stressed that the Master Plan and the Scoping Paper are complementary documents yet the Master Plan remains the reference document.</p> <p>Overall it was agreed that the S2R JU will take all efforts to guarantee continuous flow of information to the SC members.</p>
11:45-12:30	Opinion of the SC on the draft WP for 2015-2016
	<p>The SC took note of the planning for developing the annual work plans (WPs) of the JU for 2015 and 2016 and of the fact that the opinion of the SC is required before finalisation and adoption of the work plans. The S2R JU stressed that the adoption of an annual work plan is a pre-condition for the Commission to adopt a financing decision enabling the launch of the operational activities of the JU. The SC was informed that the adoption of the WP 2015 and WP 2016 is foreseen to take place at the next Governing Board on 16 July.</p> <p>According to the proposed work plan 2015, it is a priority to launch operational activities within the remit of IP2 and IP5, which are covered to a much lesser extent by the projects from the first H2020, 2014 call. The work Plan 2016 will focus on IP1, IP3, and IP4, and further necessary tasks to ensure a meaningful start of activities. Even if the JU plans to launch calls and invitations for proposals to members, pooling available resources for 2015 and 2016 in one go, towards late 2015, a certain prioritisation was needed with due consideration of the available budget for 2015-2016. The proportion of open calls in this first call is yet to be determined. Discussions are currently in progress and the S2R JU is consulting with the Commission, the European Railway Agency.</p> <p>In their comments, the SC members suggested that particular focus should be put on the open calls for the broader railway community and that areas beyond the TDs identified in the Scoping Paper should be</p>

	<p>subject of the open calls considering that S2R is the main funding available for the sector.</p> <p>The members recognised the need for socio-economic research in S2R covered currently in the cross-cutting activities (CCA). However, it was suggested that a wider appraisal should be considered in the impact assessment of S2R JU, encompassing the business case for the innovations within S2R in terms of reducing life cycle costs, improving attractiveness of the rail services for customers and the wider benefits for society. The business case would be a good indicator in assessing the impact of the various technical proposals. Some of the members expressed the need to develop more operational Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in order to measure the impacts of newly developed technologies and their contribution to achievement of the objectives expressed in the Master Plan. The JU responded that the development of tools and methodologies for KPIs is indeed a priority and it is the intention to include it in the first call for proposals.</p> <p>The members agreed that a prioritisation is needed and that also the open calls should follow a structured logic and prioritisation taking into consideration the evolving needs of the sector and already existing results from previous projects, i.e. FP7.</p>
12:30-12:45	Election of the SC Chairperson and Vice Chair
	<p>Mr Economou recalled that in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the Scientific Committee should elect a chairperson and a vice-chair from amongst its members.</p> <p>Following a secret ballot Mr. Manuel Pereira was elected Chairperson of the Scientific Committee and Mr. Francois Lacote, was elected Vice-chair.</p>
12:45 – 13:00	Any other business and date of next meeting
	<p>Answering a question on the confidentiality of the documents circulated to the SC members and whether the SC members can redistribute these documents to third parties, Mr Economou explained that in general the confidentiality principle applies and that the SC members should respect the Rules of Procedure, which set clear rules in this respect (Article 11).</p> <p>The SC agreed to fix already an indicative date for its next meeting, notably the 15th of October, with starting time at 10h30.</p>

Annex
List of participants

PEREIRA	Manuel	University of Lisbon
SANZ BOBI	Juan de Dios	UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID
DI FEBBRARO	Angela	DIME - University of Genoa
PIERIEGUD	Jana	Warsaw School of Economics
SCHNIEDER	Eckehard	Technische Universität Braunschweig
PYRGIDIS	Christos	Aristotle University of Thessalonikis
IWNICKI	Simon	University of Huddersfield
SÖYLEMEZ	Mehmet	ITU Graduate School of Sci. Eng. And Tech.
LACÔTE	François	
NASH	Chris	University of Leeds
KOPCZYNSKA	Magda	DG MOVE
FITCH	Keir	DG MOVE
ECONOMOU	Christos	Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking
SMIT	Rachel	DG MOVE
KEDZIERSKI	Antoine	DG MOVE
PATRIS	Georgios	Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking
GURAU	Alexandra	Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking
SZELIGOWSKA	Dorota	Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking
BIRD	William	DG RTD