

# **ABCR**

## **PLENARY 01 - MINUTES**

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**13 MARCH 2026 - ONLINE**

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## 1. Opening and welcome

The Chair (RNE) opened the **first plenary meeting of the Advisory Board for the Capacity Regulation (ABCR)** and welcomed Members and Observers.

The purpose of the meeting was recalled as the formal launch of the ABCR and the start of structured stakeholder dialogue in view of the forthcoming **EU Capacity Regulation**.

Participants were informed that the meeting was recorded solely for the purpose of preparing the minutes; no objections were raised.

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

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## 2. Tour de table

A tour de table was conducted, allowing all participants to introduce themselves, their organisations and roles (Members / Observers / RNE).

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## 3. Overview of preparatory activities at RNE for the implementation of the Capacity Regulation

*Annex 2 ABCR main presentation*

*([https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-2\\_2026-03-13\\_ABCR\\_main-presentation.pdf](https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-2_2026-03-13_ABCR_main-presentation.pdf))*

RNE presented an overview of the key elements of the upcoming Capacity Regulation and the related preparatory work already underway at RNE.

### 3.1 Key elements of the CR (slides 4-18)

RNE emphasised that implementation of the Regulation goes beyond drafting European Frameworks and includes **process definition, digital tools, governance and monitoring**.

RNE presented the approach for preparing the three European Frameworks required under the Regulation, with following key points:

- Frameworks will define **harmonised procedures and methodologies** to be adopted by Infrastructure Managers and reflected in Network Statements.
- Preparation follows a staged process: drafting, stakeholder consultation, review by ENRRB and adoption by ENIM.
- Indicative timelines were presented, assuming adoption of the Regulation in mid-2026, with staggered application deadlines through 2028–2029.

### 3.2 Implementation activities at RNE (slides 19-46)

RNE outlined the various ongoing activities to prepare RNE for the role of Network Coordinator and work with the Infrastructure Managers:

- Network Coordinator Preparatory Project
- Capacity Management
- IT strategy and implementation
- Traffic management
- European Transport Market Study
- EuroLink Working Group
- Consultation guidelines and engagement activities with stakeholders

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## 4. Format, working methods and organisation of the ABCR (reflected in the Terms of Reference) (slides 47-50)

*Annex 3 Terms of Reference of ABCR*

(clean version [https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/ABCR\\_Terms-of-Reference\\_2026-03-18\\_for-comments-ABCR.pdf](https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/ABCR_Terms-of-Reference_2026-03-18_for-comments-ABCR.pdf))

(version with TC [https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/ABCR\\_Terms-of-Reference\\_2026-03-18\\_for-comments-ABCR\\_TC.pdf](https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/ABCR_Terms-of-Reference_2026-03-18_for-comments-ABCR_TC.pdf))

RNE presented its overall approach to stakeholder engagement and the proposed functioning of the ABCR, as reflected in the Terms of Reference:

- The Terms of Reference provide housekeeping rules for the functioning of the ABCR. They will be shared after the Plenary and participants will have time to share comments before their formal written adoption.
- The functioning of ABCR will be based on principles of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and transparency, with publication of documents on RNE website as a general principle.
- The ABCR is meant as an **early-stage, informal engagement platform**, complementing the formal consultations required under the Regulation.
- The ABCR Plenary meetings will be complemented by specific engagement activities, which are organised based on a portfolio of standardised “engagement formats”: feedback procedures, decision polls, mandate-driven collaboration, training and information sessions. Each are meant for specific purposes of engagement and participation in the activities is open beyond the participants of ABCR.

- RNE committed to **review the organisation of the dialogue with (non-IM) operational stakeholders once the European Railway Platform (ERP) becomes operational**. RNE considers the ABCR as a transitional arrangement and is open to reconsider its organisation or existence. FTE, as key coordinator of ERP establishment, and RNE expressed their willingness to cooperate for this purpose.

Procedure to approve the Terms of Reference:

- Participants are invited to provide comments and suggestions on the Terms of Reference until Thursday, 2 April (COB).
- A written procedure for the endorsement of the Terms of Reference (in line with point 16 of the draft ToR) will be organised (indicatively) between Wednesday, 8 April and Tuesday, 14 April (COB).

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## 5. Outlook on RNE stakeholder engagement activities

All RNE future stakeholder engagement activities will be published on the RNE website. RNE demonstrated where to find information on all types of activities during the meeting.

The key pages are as follows.

- General information: <https://rne.eu/market-performance/stakeholder-relations/abcr/>
- Information on specific engagement activities: <https://rne.eu/market-performance/stakeholder-relations/stakeholder-engagement-activities/>
- Calendar of ABCR meetings: [https://rne.eu/calendar/?\\_categories=abcr](https://rne.eu/calendar/?_categories=abcr)
- Calendar of all stakeholder engagement activities: [https://rne.eu/calendar/?\\_categories=sea](https://rne.eu/calendar/?_categories=sea)

RNE will keep this information up to date and plans a newsletter to keep ABCR participants informed.

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## 6. State of play of the establishment of the European Railway Platform (ERP)

*Annex 4 FTE presentation on the establishment of ERP*

*([https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-4\\_2026-03-13-ERP-for-ABCR.pdf](https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-4_2026-03-13-ERP-for-ABCR.pdf))*

Forum Train Europe (FTE) presented the state of play regarding the establishment of the **European Railway Platform (ERP)**:

- ERP is intended as the **market-side counterpart to ENIM**, consolidating the positions of operational stakeholder positions other than Infrastructure Managers.
- Emphasis was placed on inclusiveness, lean governance and avoidance of duplication.
- Several participants underlined the importance of **accelerating ERP establishment** to ensure a single, consolidated market voice as soon as possible.

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## 7. Outline of upcoming stakeholder engagement on the European Framework for Capacity Management

*Annex 5 EFCM scope document introduction*

*([https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-5\\_EFCM-Scope-Document-Introduction.pdf](https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/Annex-5_EFCM-Scope-Document-Introduction.pdf))*

RNE presented the launch of an **early-on stakeholder engagement** on the *Abstract of the scope definition for the European Framework for Capacity Management*:

- Publication of the abstract of the scope document on 9 March.
- Dedicated webinars on 16 March and 12 May.
- Written feedback period open until 17 April.

Members and the operational stakeholders they represent are invited to contribute under this engagement activity and to provide their feedback on the abstract of the scope definition, as well as to participate to the dedicated webinar on 16th March. All information is available on RNE website: <https://rne.eu/market-performance/stakeholder-relations/stakeholder-engagement-activities/>

Some members welcomed early engagement but raised concerns regarding the limited level of detail of the document published, the timing of the consultation and the need for more in-depth pre-consultation before proceeding to the formal consultation.

RNE noted these points, emphasized the working method for the preparation of the frameworks (stakeholder engagement based on documents endorsed by infrastructure managers) and encouraged stakeholders to make use of the possibility to provide structured feedback within the defined engagement process.

## 8. Information on the European Framework for Traffic Management (slides 52-57)

RNE presented the scope and the preparatory steps for the European Framework for Traffic Management.

The EFTM is being prepared based on traffic management rules and procedures pre-endorsed between infrastructure managers. The EFCM will be further detailed in implementation guidelines, comprising an in-depth definition of relevant processes.

RNE plans to have the draft EFTM ready by the beginning of 2027. Subsequently it will be submitted to the ERP and operational stakeholders in line with the requirements of the upcoming Capacity Regulation.

Members welcomed the methodology and stepwise approach.

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## 9. General feedback from participants

Key feedback points raised by Members and Observers included:

- Appreciation of the volume of preparatory work undertaken by RNE.
  - Strong support for early and meaningful stakeholder engagement.
  - Clear expectation from some members that ABCR should remain **temporary**, in the light of ERP establishment.
  - Need to avoid duplication of structures and consultation fatigue.
  - Calls for more interactive meetings in the future.
  - Importance of clear coordination between the future ERP and Infrastructure Managers.
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## 10. Next steps and closure

Due to time constraints, the **interactive session on Performance Review** was postponed; the date will be announced in due course.

RNE would welcome the input of the participants regarding the timing of the next plenary meeting. In particular, RNE would appreciate the views on whether it is preferable that the next meeting takes place sooner or later (quarterly or bi-annually) in the coming months.

RNE will publish the minutes and further documents related to the meeting on RNE website.

RNE will inform participants on:

- The procedure to elaborate and adopt the ABCR Terms of Reference,;
- Upcoming engagement activities and webinars;

- The schedule of future ABCR plenary meetings;
- Rescheduling of the interactive session on Performance Review,
- Exchange on the role of ABCR and its relation to ERP.

**All documents and inputs presented during the plenary meeting are available on RNE website: [https://rne.eu/downloads/#downloads\\_market\\_performance\\_abcr](https://rne.eu/downloads/#downloads_market_performance_abcr):**

- *Annex 2 ABCR main presentation*
- *Annex 3.1 Terms of reference of ABCR – clean version for comment*
- *Annex 3.2 Terms of reference of ABCR – track-changes version for comment*
- *Annex 4 FTE presentation on the establishment of ERP*
- *Annex 5 EFCM scope document introduction*

The Chair thanked all participants for their active participation and constructive feedback and closed the meeting.