

# WELCOME TO THE WEBINAR ON



# RAIL FACILITIES PORTAL



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR ROAD-RAIL  
COMBINED TRANSPORT



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe  
Facility of the European Union

15 June 2021

## Summary of Webinar on the Rail Facilities Portal

**17 June 2021, 10:00-12:00**

On 15 June 2021, RNE and UIRR jointly organised a webinar on the Rail Facilities Portal (RFP) with the participation of over 100 stakeholders from the railway sector representing the European Commission, Rail Freight Corridors, Railway Undertakings, Terminals, other service facility operators, shippers and other logistics service providers, Infrastructure Managers, umbrella organisations of theirs and Rail Regulatory Bodies.

Mr Kristian Schmidt, Director of the Land Directorate at DG MOVE at the European Commission, highlighted in his opening speech that the RFP is a very special project for DG MOVE since their goal was to close the information gap about railway access points, thus removing significant barriers for the planning of rail transport services. In addition, he has expressed the political support of DG MOVE for the RFP in the future as well.

Linda Thulin, Vice-President of RNE, from Trafikverket, has invited all stakeholders to start using the RFP by highlighting that the RFP provides a user-friendly access to information in one place and has the full potential to make railway more easily accessible for rail transport service providers.

In the first panel discussion, the focus was set on the return of experiences and the expectations of the various stakeholders, the following key messages were conveyed:

- From the perspective of an Infrastructure Manager: The RFP is a great digital solution for providing commercial information about service facilities equivalent to the network statement.
- From the perspective of the Railway Undertakings and the wagon keepers: They have a steadily increasing need for centralised information. Therefore, they request the service facility operators to fully complete their service facility descriptions in the RFP.
- From the perspective of the shippers: The RFP is a great solution, especially for their main business partners, the logistics service providers, who need support to best get the goods from A to B by optimising the transport routes and with this, to further increase their shift to rail. Nevertheless, the service facility descriptions stored in the RFP still need more up-to-date content to make the above objectives achievable.
- From the perspective of a Regulatory Body: A centralised portal like the RFP is indeed necessary since it can enable applicants to find information in an easy way. This recognised benefit of the RFP will strongly increase with the integration of additional service facility descriptions.

The second panel discussion tackled the potential of the RFP as a common business tool, emphasising the following points:

- Primarily, the fact that it can make it more efficient and easier for service facility operators to publish information via the RFP, thus they can more effectively sell their services and their customers can get access to the information more easily than before for an easier and quicker planning of their train services, can make it a business tool; even though it was originally designed as a compliance tool.
- Even more importantly, customers, especially shippers, need meaningful, complete, accurate and up-to-date information, which could make it an effective business tool.
- Additionally, customers need integrated information about the services and the infrastructure, in other words, a single point of access to all information, which is currently lacking. Nevertheless, the RFP has the full potential to get linked to other systems and databases such as the CRD and the RINF, or even the CIP of the RFCs.
- Finally, as digitalisation is also moving forward in all business fields in railways, the RFP can play a much bigger role than the European Commission envisaged when they designed it.

#### **To sum it up**

- the customers of the service facilities need easy and quick access to unified and digitalised information, for which the RFP already provides a platform today. It is now up to the service facility operators to use the RFP and to provide complete, up-to-date and reliable information;
- one of the primary services of the RFP is to facilitate compliance with the Article 4 of Implementing Regulation 2017/2177. At the same time, it has the potential to serve the rail sector as a business tool as well.

As portal management entities, RNE and UIRR will elaborate on a strategy and bring it to the RFP's Governance Board how to realise the full potential of the RFP in order to try to make it a common European business tool.

The Portal Management also kindly invites all service facility operators to contact them via [contact@railfacilitiesportal.eu](mailto:contact@railfacilitiesportal.eu) in order to start using the RFP and to continue completing their service facility descriptions.