



# European Commission

## DG MOVE

### ERESS Forum 2020

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Single European Rail Area

# PRESENTATION SUMMARY

- Commission COVID19 response
- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/868

# COM measures to safeguard operational continuity during COVID-19

(letter to rail directors)

- **Communication on Green Lanes** (26 March), to ensure the free movement within the EU of all workers involved in international transport in all transport modes.
- **Enhanced cooperation between IMs: Rail Net Europe** established an enhanced coordination between the rail freight corridors.
- **Electronic documents** to protect drivers from unnecessary physical contact. See also '**Guidance on Customs issues related to the COVID-19 emergency**' by DG TAXUD (30 March, updated 8 April) ([https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/covid-19-taxud-response/guidance-customs-issues-related-covid-19-emergency\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/covid-19-taxud-response/guidance-customs-issues-related-covid-19-emergency_en)).
- The Commission services have also clarified that there is **flexibility to extended validity of certificates and licenses**.

# Instruments to address liquidity shortages and other economic damage (1/2)

- **Temporary Framework for State Aid measures** (adopted 19 March). This framework is based on Article 107(3)(b) TFEU which allows for State support to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State. This Temporary Framework was amended on 3 April to cover additional aid measures and applies to all sectors and undertakings including transport undertakings. The Framework allows Member States, inter alia, to provide direct grants, tax advantages, State guarantees for loans and subsidised public loans. To address urgent liquidity needs in a speedy manner Member States may give, up to the nominal value of EUR 800 000 per company, zero-interest loans, guarantees on loans covering 100% of the risk or provide equity. This can be combined also with so-called de minimis aid (to bring the aid per company to up to EUR 1 million) and with other types of aid. General measures such as wage subsidies, suspension of corporate and VAT taxes or social contributions payments are also possible.

# Instruments to address liquidity shortages and other economic damage (2/2)

- **Article 107(2)(b) TFEU** enables Member States to compensate companies for damages caused by the COVID-19 crisis, including for lost revenues.
- More information on the possibilities for State support:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/what\\_is\\_new/covid\\_19.html](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/covid_19.html)
- Furthermore, the **Railway Guidelines** provide a toolbox of measures which could also contribute to providing financial relief to the sector. There is for instance the possibility to introduce aid schemes for infrastructure use (in particular by reducing track access charges) or to reduce levies like energy surcharges (Communication from the Commission – Community guidelines on State aid for railway undertakings (2008/C 184/07) – OJ C184/13 of 22.07.2008).

# COVID-19 Relief Package concerning Transport (1/2)

- **Extension of validity of certificates and licenses**  
REGULATION (EU) 2020/698 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 May 2020 laying down specific and temporary measures in view of the COVID-19 outbreak concerning the renewal or extension of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and periodic training in certain areas of transport legislation.
- **Extension of transposition period of the technical pillar of the 4<sup>th</sup> railway package:**  
DIRECTIVE (EU) 2020/700 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 May 2020 amending Directives (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2016/798
- <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2020:165:TOC>

# COVID-19 Relief Package concerning Transport (2/2)

- **Passenger rights guidelines during COVID-19 pandemic to be applied in a coherent way**  
Under EU rules, passengers and travelers have the right to choose between vouchers or cash reimbursement for cancelled transport tickets (plane, train, bus/coach and ferries) or package travel. While reaffirming this right, the Commission recommendation of 13 of May 2020 aims to ensure that vouchers become a viable and more attractive alternative to reimbursement for cancelled trips in the context of the current pandemic, which has also put heavy financial strains on travel operators.
- <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20201830.pdf>

# Public health related measures in rail passenger transport

- In view of the gradual easing of confinement measures and border restrictions, the Commission published Guidelines on the progressive restoration of transport services and connectivity on 13 May ([https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication\\_transportservices.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication_transportservices.pdf))
- The spirit of the Guidelines is that the measures they contain can be scaled up and down in function of the epidemiological needs. The Guidelines are clear in stating that as new and more efficient solutions become available, their deployment should be prioritised, so that less efficient or more burdensome measures can be discontinued. The principle of cost efficiency should also be respected.
- UIC [World Rail Association] in process of defining common public health measures for international trains.
- The EU Railway Agency is as well working on more detailed guidance and is in touch with the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and other transport agencies (EASA, EMSA) for this.



# Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/868

- On-ground settlement system capable to receive data from a DCS and accept it for billing– implemented by 4/7/2020
- Data Collecting Systems (DCS) compliant with ENE TSI – implemented by 1/1/2022
- DG MOVE appreciates that the sector has taken the initiative to realise the Sector Declaration

# Thank you



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