Safety Infrastructure and Operation

Round Table – 8th of September 2009

Brussels
Introduction

- The railway system is technically integrated (wheel / rail).

- Maintaining safety requires:
  - good quality of the infrastructure (conception / maintenance);
  - good quality of equipments and rolling-stock;
  - operation control (regulations / procedures);
  - taking into account the human factor

- These functions being now split ➔ **necessity to guarantee the coherence of the system.**
Every new or modified infrastructure requires an authorization before entering into service - NSA responsibility (EPSF);

The infrastructure manager (IM) holds a safety agreement attesting its ability / organization to operate / maintain railway infrastructure;

Implementation of its SMS is regularly monitored;
Infrastructure

2- Points to note

- The detailed features and state of repair of the network are not perfectly known → need to accelerate the implementation of the register of infrastructure;

- Significant resources are devoted to the modernization / upgrade of the network;

- The (possible) deterioration of some parts of the infrastructure is a risk we must take into account / control.
Operation

1– Principles

- All RU’s hold a safety certificate (11);

- They are routinely and regularly monitored and audited;

- Regulations are being adapted at 3 levels:
  - Community / State;
  - Operating rules – IM responsibility – NSA control;
  - Operational instructions - IM / RU responsibility.
Operation

2– Points to note

- Constant effort to maintain the good practices in the long run (processes / human factor);

- Complex regulations to be adapted to changing conditions;

- Multiplication of actors and interfaces → increases potential risks.
Ensuring the Coherence of the System

- Need for the NSA to ensure that the chain of responsibilities is well built and implemented (e.g. contracts / subcontracting / joint activities / issues related to rolling stock) → importance of the supervision function.

- Necessity to simplify and clarify the rules → « justified rules for a clearly understood enforcement."

- Necessity of information exchange and feedback.
Expectations Towards Europe

- Technical harmonization (interoperability).
- Training harmonization (drivers license).
- Operational rules harmonization.
- Dissemination of information and best practices (feedback and peer review).