

STATE OF RAIL REFORM IN CROATIA
from 05/2011 to 10/2011

In the period from May 2011 to October 2011, the process of aligning the Croatian railway transport legislation with the *acquis* and its efficient implementation has been continued.

Pursuant to the Railway Safety Act (OG 40/07) the Ordinance on technical requirements for industrial and other tracks which are not public property in common use (OG 99/11), the Ordinance on requirements for authorization for railway vehicle maintenance workshops (OG 99/11) and the Ordinance on rolling stock register (OG 87/11) has been adopted.

The working groups for preparing new Railway law and new Railway safety law continue their work. New laws will implement changes and new regulatory frame adopted in EU according to proposals of technical assistance project PHARE 2006.

Pursuant to the obligations from the Agreement on railway infrastructure management (Multi annual agreement), the company HŽ Infrastruktura Ltd. delivered the Report of quality and capacity requirements for year 2010.

In the period from May to October 2011., the Ministry of sea, transport and infrastructure issued authorisations for placing into service for two new built electro-motor trains (EMU), one for regional and second for suburban traffic, manufactured by companies Končar and Gredelj.

Further administrative strengthening of the institutions in line with requests and recommendations of the European Union has been carried out, aiming at efficient implementation of the *acquis*.

After appointment by the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the director of the **Croatian Railway Safety Agency** started with work in May 2011. Now the Agency has two more employees, one engineer is for five months on the in-house traineeship at the Safety Unit of the European Railway Agency.

Since May the Governing Council of the Agency adopted several internal by-laws concerning the organization of the Agency, internal working processes and its salary policy. Agency employees have also been consulted in connection with amendments of certain laws and by-laws that are regulating areas of Agency's competence.

The Agency is involved in activities connected to placing into service of the safety related systems on line from Oštarije to Knin (s.c. Lika Line), on X corridor (ISPA project - rehabilitation works on line Vinkovci – Tovarnik) and Zagreb main station (IPA project). Furthermore, the Agency is involved in issuance of permissions for testing of certain new safety related equipment.

Rail Market Regulatory Agency (hereinafter: RMRA) has become a member of the „Independent Regulators' Group – Rail” (IRG-Rail), a network currently comprising independent rail Regulatory Bodies from fifteen European countries, including Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Former Republic of Yugoslavia-Macedonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The overall aim of the Independent Regulators' Group – Rail (IRG-Rail) is to facilitate the creation of a single, competitive, efficient and sustainable internal railways market in Europe. The IRG-Rail acts as a platform for cooperation, information exchange and sharing of best practice between national railway regulators in order to face current and future regulatory challenges in railways and to promote a consistent application of the European regulatory framework. RMRA participated on 21st regular meeting of the Working Group Regulatory Bodies on 30 June and 1 July 2011 in Luxembourg and is further involved in following activities:

- assessment of organizational and functional structure within integrated HŽ system (HŽ Holding),
- preparation of guidelines for Regulatory Accounts,
- preparation of the Annual report for the year 2010
- IPA 2009 FPP RAC Twinning light project „Strengthening of the Agency's capacities“ is approved and circulated, the deadline for presenting proposals is 21st November.