

State of Railway Reform in Croatia
SEETO working group railway and intermodality
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On 1th of July 2013 Republic of Croatia became the 28th member state of European Union. Before that date Croatia had to align the legislation, rules and administrative procedures to EU laws and standards. It means that in the railway sector all relevant laws were brought up into line with EU directives, regulations and decisions.

To this end, a new RAILWAY ACT was published in Official journal No. 94/13 in which for the most part the Directive 2012/34/EU establishing a single European railway area (recast) was implemented. The provisions on regulatory body are foreseen to be part of the new Rail Market Regulation Act which is now in preparation and with whom the Rail Market Regulatory Agency will be joined with Croatian Post and Electronic Communications Agency in a new agency called Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries.

Regarding the technical part of EU acqui, in the ACT ON SAFETY AND INTEROPERABILITY OF THE RAILWAY SYSTEM which was published in Official journal No. 82/13 were fully implemented the Railway Safety Directive 2004/49/EC with amendments 2008/110/EC & 2009/149/EC and Interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC with amendments 2009/131/EC, 2011/18/EU & 2013/9/EU. Partly was implemented the Directive 2007/59/EC on the certification of train drivers, remaining provisions were fully implemented in the Ordinance on certification of train drivers, published in Official journal No. 96/13. Also partly the Directive 2005/47/EC on the Agreement between CER and ETF was implemented, complete implementation was done in the Ordinance on working hours of railway executive workers, published in Official journal No. 105/08 & 33/13.

National safety authority, the **Croatian Railway Safety Agency**, is competent to perform tasks related to the safety and interoperability of the railway system, mainly tasks regarding:

- train drivers: the Railway Technical School in Zagreb was recognised as training centre for general professional knowledge for issuing the licences; lay-out of licence and instructions for applicants are prepared,
- undertakings: a safety certificate (part A and B) was issued to ADRIA Transport d.o.o. - company for rail freight transport - which has a licence issued by the competent ministry,
- vehicles: issuing authorizations for placing into service of vehicles are ongoing, also issuing certificates for ECM for freight wagons,
- national vehicle register: established and linked to ERA,
- other subsystems: for interlocking system at the Central Station in Zagreb a temporary authorisation for placing into service is issued.

The Croatian Railways company for passenger transport - **HŽ Putnički Prijevoz d.o.o.** - will introduce in the period from 2015 to 2017 a total of 44 new low-floor electrical and diesel trains that will travel across Croatia and be manufactured, under a 1.63 billion kuna contract by the Croatian company Končar electric vehicles in cooperation with domestic partners. The first of the 44 trains will be manufactured and put into operation in about 14 months, after which 1-2 trains will be produced monthly until 2017. Sixteen of the 44 trains will travel within the bounds of the city of Zagreb and commute to nearby towns, while the remaining 28 will operate across the country.

In rail freight transport company **HŽ Cargo d.o.o.** a restructuring process is ongoing, which means that about 1.000 employees (from total 3.500) have to be dismissed, salaries will be reduced by 20 per cent, everything which does not belong to core business will be sold and expenses for employees

and severance payments will be reduced. Company's privatization is more likely to take place in the future and specific companies will be privatized, also the subsidiary company Agit will merge with HŽ Cargo, except intermodal transport and activities related to the Marco Polo project.

The Croatian infrastructure manager - **HŽ Infrastruktura d.o.o.** - after finishing projects financed from IPA pre-accession EU programs, renewal of 34 kilometers section Vinkovci - Tovarnik - State boundaries and new interlocking system at the Central Station in Zagreb - is now finalising the renewal of section Okučani - Novska, completion is expected by the end of this year. Ongoing are tenders for two important projects that are located on the former corridor Vb sections Dugo Selo - Križevci and Sv. Ivan Žabno - Gradec. In the preparation is another very important project, bypass for freight traffic around Zagreb.

According to figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics, Croatian transport operators transported fewer passengers in 2013 than in 2012, while goods transport saw a rise. Slightly over 93 million passengers were transported last year, which was a decline of 1.5% in comparison with 2012. Increases in the volume of passenger transport were reported by road, maritime and coastal transport operators, while the sharpest drop in the volume of passenger transport was recorded in rail transport as the number of train passengers fell 12.7% to 24.1 million. At the same time, the volume of goods transport increased 1.5% year on year to 111.3 million tonnes annually. Figures showed a decline in the transport of goods in rail transport by 2%.