

News from railway's sector in Croatia
SEETO working group railway and intermodality
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In the period from 20th March 2014 Republic of Croatia continued the process of aligning the implementation and efficient enforcement of European Union railway acquis.

The transposition of the Directive 2012/34/EU establishing a single European railway area and determination of the framework for implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road and implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations was completed with:

- Railway Act (OJ No 94/2013 and 148/2013) in force from 23.7.2013 and 1.1.2014
- Act on Regulation of Railway Services Market (OJ No 71/2014) in force from 19.6.2014 and 1.1.2015 (art. 28&33).

The Rail Market Regulatory Agency became part of the Croatian Regulatory Agency for Network Services (HAKOM). The multimodal regulatory body is fully independent and self-financed and is responsible for regulation of the electronic communications market, postal service market and railways service market. HAKOM also performs inspection and supervision of rail passengers' rights according to Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007.

In Croatia the freight transport services market is fully liberalised. The licences issued in EU member states are recognised, the Ministry for Transport till now issued 3 licences for Croatian transport companies (one of them is incumbent state owned) and the Safety Agency issued Part A & Part B of safety certificates. At this moment we have 6 companies which perform freight transport by rail (HŽ Cargo, Adria Transport – now PPD Transport, Rail Cargo Carrier – Croatia, RCC Kft., RTS Rail Transport Service GmbH and Train Hungary Kft.). According to collected data the new entrants performed in 3rd quarter 0,82 % and in 4th quarter 1,15 % of freight market services.

The Croatian passenger transport company HŽ Putnički prijevoz signed in January 2014 a contract with Končar Electric Vehicles d.d. for the production of 44 new low-floor trains. On the 9th of April 2015 the first of the 16 electric trains intended for regional transport was put in operation. 16 more electric trains are indented for suburban transport and 12 diesel trains for regional transport.

At the end of 2014 the Croatian Transport Development Strategy for period 2014-2030 was published whose key overarching goal is to develop a financially sustainable railway sector in Croatia, based on a transparent public financial support to railways and consistent with transport market demand, EU transport policies, and a prudent fiscal policy.

In the period from January to December 2014, the total number of passengers transported by rail amounted to 21,8 million, which was the decrease of 10.0 % compared to the same period of 2013. At the same time the data for passenger-kilometres shows an increase of 7,5 % (closed lines). The quantity of transported goods by rail decreased by 2,6 % compared to the same period of 2013 (all modes of goods transport recorded the decrease).