

PRESS RELEASE

ALLRAIL welcomes the Official Publication of the EU Rail Capacity Management Regulation

Brussels, 10 June 2026

- For ALLRAIL and its members, access to rail capacity remains one of the most important market barriers facing new entrant operators
- This new Regulation marks an important step towards a more harmonised, transparent and market-oriented framework for rail capacity management across Europe.

ALLRAIL welcomes the official publication in the Official Journal of the European Union of the long-awaited Regulation on the use of railway infrastructure capacity in the Single European Railway Area.

This new Regulation marks an important step towards a more harmonised, transparent and market-oriented framework for rail capacity management across Europe. It moves beyond the current fragmented approach, where capacity rules have too often differed from one Member State to another, and where the existing provisions of the Single European Railway Area Directive have not been sufficient to support the development of new national and cross-border passenger rail services.

For ALLRAIL and its members, access to rail capacity remains one of the most important market barriers facing new entrant operators. This is particularly true for operators seeking to launch new cross-border services, where divergent national rules, weak coordination between infrastructure managers, inconsistent priority rules and commercial conditions, and insufficiently predictable capacity rights have made investment unnecessarily difficult.

The new Regulation introduces several important structures and mechanisms, including the European Network of Infrastructure Managers, the European Railway Undertaking Platform, the European Network of Regulatory Bodies, the Performance Review Body and the Network Coordinator. If implemented properly, these bodies can help address many of the operational and regulatory barriers that currently prevent the development of a truly European rail market.

However, **the success of the Regulation will depend on how it is implemented.** ALLRAIL therefore underlines the fundamental role of the European Railway Platform and other

operational stakeholders in shaping the future European Frameworks for Capacity Management. **The views of new entrants must be fully taken into account when drafting these frameworks, preparing the foreseen Delegated Acts and developing the European Framework for Capacity Management that will govern access to capacity in the years ahead.**

Without structured and meaningful input from railway undertakings, applicants and other market participants being fully taken into account, **the benefits of the Regulation risk being undermined.** Harmonisation must not become a purely administrative exercise. It must lead to clear, practical and market-oriented rules that support new services, stronger competition and better use of Europe's rail infrastructure.

ALLRAIL has been working closely with other stakeholders, including Forum Train Europe, to ensure that railway undertakings have a stronger voice in the development and implementation of the new capacity framework at EU level.

Looking ahead to Timetable 2031, **the sector now has a major responsibility to deliver.** The publication of this Regulation is not the end of the process, but rather the end of the beginning. Europe now needs capacity rules that are transparent, predictable and fit for a competitive rail market, **so that new operators can invest, cross-border rail can grow, and passengers can benefit from more choice, better services and a stronger European rail network.**