

Rail Freight Corridor ATLANTIC

16th TAG-RAG meeting
Bilbao, 13th March 2019

MINUTES

From 10h00 to 13h00

Address: Bilbao Port premises
Santurtzi
SPAIN

After welcome by Port Director who made a presentation about Bilbao Port activity and figures, TAG-RAG meeting treated the following topics:

Intermodal rail freight gauge measurement:

- Measuring along RFC in Germany and France are expected to start in May.
- SNCF Fret requests to consider the results in the French working group COOPERE.
- SNCF Réseau admits it but points that loading gauge data must be sourced by the IM for train-track compatibility purposes, and that the measurements to be carried out by mean of a self-equipped container in a commercial train will be welcome as a complementary information.

Language pilot DE/FR in Forbach:

- At the end of 2019 extension of allowing RUs to speak German in Forbach will finish.
- SNCF Réseau and DB Netz are working on a pilot to use some predefined messages and a translation tool. RUs are asking for the timeline of the pilot to avoid a situation with an end of the extension before the pilots give clear results.
- SNCF Réseau will communicate soon the timeline for the pilot to the RUs.

TTR and TCR:

- Short presentation done by Atlantic RFC about the single capacity band per direction available for TT2021 linked to many TCR planned in France between Forbach and Hendaye (with full closure mainly at the north of Orleans, south of Poitiers and south of Bordeaux).
- TTR project manager informs the RUs about the planned works on the RFC Atlantic, showing the space-time diagram for capacity mainly in the sections thorough France. Works for line renewal and improvement which will start in 2021 mainly from Bordeaux to Morcenx, will affect strongly by breaking the existing paths today from TT2021 – TT2025 (full closure at 9h at night, 33 weeks/year planned in 2021).
- SNCF Fret claims that with this scarce capacity, a TTR pilot doesn't make sense as the result will not be representative.
- TRANSFESA Director sets that in a first approach, at least more locomotives and personnel (loco driver, transshipment) are going to be necessary to run the business, which would make it not profitable.
- Atlantic RFC concerns about the potential damage to the rail freight market, whose trend is a permanent decrease during last years (at Hendaye: 9700 trains in 1998, 2900 trains in 2018).
- For the TCR planned in 2021 at the south of Bordeaux, a meeting will take place between SNCF Réseau and RUs on the 10th of April 2019 with regards the impact of mentioned works to discuss solutions.
- For the connection between Portugal and Spain through the Beira Alta line, IP is assessing the impact of the works planned and meeting with RUs in order to check alternatives by rerouting traffic on other lines.
- The Atlantic RFC should look for a way to give a more continuous update on the TCR, as they change along the year.

ERTMS deployment on the DE/FR cross border section between Metz – Mannheim :

- Presentation of the results of the RFC Atlantic feasibility study.
- RUs request to have a timeline for the implementation of ERTMS on the missing section (Herny – DE/FR border and Neunkirchen route to bypass Saarbrücken Hbf).

Regional Working group for DE/FR: Quality Circle Operations

- RU express their wish to implement a DE/FR Cross-Border working group in Forbach for addressing the operational issues between RU and IM experts using the RFC Atlantic as a platform.
- RFC Atlantic supports the idea under the condition that concrete issues are identified, analyzed and solved with full commitment of the participants (RU + IM)
- Christian Minge (for the RFC Atlantic) and Andrea Penso (for the RU) will organize commonly the next steps
- Next steps:
 - RU will provide a first list of issues to be tackled (Andrea Penso)

- Agreement of all stakeholder on the scope of work and the rules for collaboration of the working group
- Kick-Off meeting shall be made to identify issues commonly during the workshop. A punctuality measurement (for e.g. 2 weeks period) by all companies (IM+RU) can be done beforehand and used as input for the workshop.

Organization of next RAG-TAG meeting:

- Next Meeting is fixed for the 17th of September 2019 in Paris.
- RAG speaker claims that RU should have more time to address their topics and to discuss (i.e.: 1 hour).
- RAG speaker wish a higher involvement of the RU for the preparation of the TAG-RAG, with special request for a higher involvement of the Iberian RUs.
- RAG speaker asks for an Action Lists that can be discussed in the TAG-RAG meetings on a regular base as the topics are repeatedly discussed. RAG speaker will make a proposal.

Open session to the Bilbao Port community:

Representatives of the Port end customers and stakeholders joined the meeting. After a general presentation of the Bilbao Port activities, ADIF Logistics Services project manager presented the design and the implementation timeline of a new UIC intermodal terminal to be built at Vitoria-Júndiz.

ANNEXES:

- RFC Atlantic presentation for RAG TAG representatives 13th.03.19
- RAG spokesperson presentation 13th.03.19
- VITORIA JUNDIZ intermodal UIC terminal presentation by ADIF 13th.03.19
- See attendees list hereafter

RAG/RAG-Meeting in Bilbao 13-03-2019



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