



**European Transport  
Conference**  
18 – 20 September 2024  
Antwerpen, Belgium



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**Deadline 9 February 2024**

## **Rail Policy and Planning Topics**

The Rail Policy and Planning Programme Committee encourages debate on the planning, operation and economics of heavy rail passenger transport overall and with respect to numerous challenges such as digitalisation, circular economy, low carbon or security issues. The Programme Committee therefore invites you to submit abstracts of relevance to the following themes but will also consider abstracts on topics of your choice and of relevance to your current work which are interesting for an international audience:

### **Rail and travel patterns in an era of change; are climate change objectives still on track?**

- The future of rail transport patterns and meeting needs (in the wake of COVID-19's impact on travel, working from home and on-line shopping)
- (New) markets: more European tourism on rail instead of worldwide air travel? Regional leisure trips on the weekend by rail instead of car use?
- Decarbonisation: which investments necessary to boost both passenger and freight on rail?
- Electric mobility: Is rail losing its leading role given lower expenses for e-mobility by car? What about the role of required space for transport infrastructure?

### **Innovations targeting customers' perspective**

- Passenger information, ticketing and passengers' rights for the seamless (international) journey.
- Crowding and wayfinding at station/platform.
- Rail as backbone for user equity and driver for user-efficient mobility as a service.

### **Policy focus**

- TEN-T revision 2024: new horizons for cross-border rail and regional accessibility?
- Facing service disruptions at borders: Is the 2021 EC-Action Plan on cross-border long-distance rail sufficient?
- Which strategies for Eastern Europe and overall?
- Devolution in decision making – how do national, regional and local governance structures best interact?
- Balancing tax investment and passenger fares in the railways – what is the optimum mix, also in view of road decarbonisation?

### **Innovation in planning and efficient operations**

- Long-distance rail: Is high speed rail still the sole solution? What about "retrofitted" conventional rail, night trains?
- Which markets to tap in long-distance rail: air or car?
- Harmonisation of long-distance rail operations given growing market with different regional rail and long-distance competitors?
- How is rail operations ensured especially at borders and given geopolitical turmoil?



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### **Rail Policy and Planning Programme Committee members**

<b>Peter Endemann</b>	<b>Regionalverband FrankfurtRheinMain (DE) - Chair</b>
Kristīne Malnača	RB Rail AS (LV)
Patricia Perennes	Trans-Missions (FR)
Ben Condry	Imperial College (UK)
Josie Drath	Arup (UK)
Neil Fleming	Department for Transport (UK)
Piotr Gołębiowski	Warsaw University of Technology (PL)
Charles Harmer	Transport for London (UK)
Torben Holvad	European Railway Agency (INT)
Andrew Meaney	Oxera (UK)
John Provan	Transport Scotland (UK)
Austin Smyth	Transport Analysis and Advocacy Ltd. (UK)
Manuel Tao	University of the Algarve (PT)
Chris Judge	Systra (UK)
Craig White	Atkins (UK)
Ian Wright	Transport Focus (UK)

### **Important notice**

If you submit an abstract, this will go through a selection process. Each year we receive more abstracts than can be accommodated in the programme. If your abstract is selected, please be aware that others have been rejected, that the ETC organisation has invested time in devising an attractive and coherent programme and that delegates have used this programme to decide to come to the conference.

Before submitting your abstract, please make sure there is time and funding to have at least one of the authors attending the conference to present the paper and that you have/will obtain the approval needed (from management or client) to present the work in public at the time of the conference. The conference organisers will require your commitment by the time of the abstract's acceptance.

### **How to submit your abstract**

For abstract submission: <https://aetransport.org/etc/call-for-papers>. You can directly select rail policy and planning as topic.

*If you need any assistance, please contact Sanderijn Baanders: [sanderijn.baanders@aetransport.org](mailto:sanderijn.baanders@aetransport.org)  
For rail policy and planning issues, please contact Peter Endemann: [endemann@region-frankfurt.de](mailto:endemann@region-frankfurt.de)*