

EPTTOLA position paper on the 4th Railway Package**1. Introduction**

This paper has been prepared by EPTTOLA members to provide a response to the European Commission's proposals contained within the 4th Railway Package announced in January 2013.

2. Technical Pillar

There is still a lack of clarity and hence lack of consistency between Member States (MS) and National Safety Authorities in implementing the first three Railway Packages and in particular the vehicle authorisation process. EPTTOLA supports any measures which will bring further clarity and consistency to that process. To this end, EPTTOLA supports the content of the Technical Pillar of the 4th Package as laid out in the compromise text prepared by the Irish Presidency, which will in future allow Authorisation of vehicles being Placed on the Market by either the ERA or an NSA

3. Industry Structure

EPTTOLA is fully supportive of the complete separation of Infrastructure Managers from Railway Undertakings. Only when this is achieved will there be no conflict of interest between IMs and RUs. The 4th Package does not go far enough in this regard.

4. Opening Domestic Passenger Markets

EPTTOLA welcomes the proposal to open up domestic passenger markets to competition, because of the efficiencies and improvements that it will bring. However, the detail of the proposals for facilitation of access to rolling stock and how this will work is a key concern of EPTTOLA members. EPTTOLA would wish to be consulted on these proposals to ensure that they will achieve the desired outcome

5. Maintaining a Skilled Rail Workforce

EPTTOLA supports measures to address the challenges of maintaining a skilled and motivated workforce in the face of an ageing working population. However the proposals in the 4th Package do not appear to address this challenge.
