# Platform on International Rail Passenger Transport (IRP)

## Why a platform?

International passenger rail transport is presently not performing to its potential within Europe. Therefore, on June 2nd 2020, European Ministers of Transport have decided to establish the the Platform on International Rail Passenger Transport (IRP). The Platform works together with all signing EU Member States and third countries, the European Commission, the European Railway Agency, Shift2Rail, OTIF and rail sector organisations.

The Platform builds upon the existing EU railway acquis and policy (Single European Railway Area, TEN-T, Innovation, etc.) and COTIF rules. Cooperation through this platform aims at improving the international passenger transport by rail, thereby contributing to the EU Green Deal and the EU Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.

The Platform supports a European agenda on international rail passenger services. One of the intentions is to discuss necessary actions with sector representatives, and to deliver a report with recommendations to the Ministers of Transport by mid-2021.

## Participants

25 EU Member States, as well as Switzerland and Norway, are working together on the Platform, alongside the ERA, OTIF, and Shift2Rail. The European Commission is actively involved as well. To engage the sector in the Platform, a mirror group has been set up consisting of representatives of railway infrastructure managers, carriers and passengers.

## What does the Platform do?

The Platform envisages a holistic approach to bringing European countries and sector initiatives together to improve framework conditions for developing international rail passenger services.
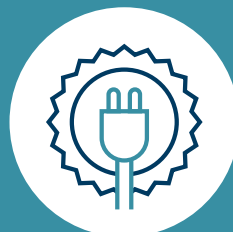
In order to focus on different themes, the Platform is devided into the following four subgroups:
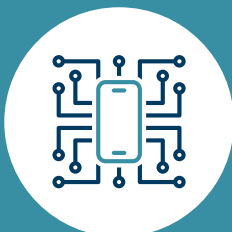
Customer experience and digitalisation

Network of international passenger services

EU Green Deal: infra bottlenecks & interoperability issues

Regulatory framework

## What does each subgroup do?

**1** **Customer experience and digitalisation**
Identify opportunities for improvement of, amongst other things, international train tickets, travel information, passenger rights and so on to enhance the customer experience.

**2** **Network of international passenger services**
Define the desirability of international rail passenger network / corridors / hubs at European level. This includes long-distance trains (high speed), night trains and air-rail connections.

**3** **EU Green Deal: identify infra bottlenecks and interoperability issues**
Identify infrastructure bottlenecks, missing links and interoperability issues that once alleviated can substantially contribute to the growth of international rail passenger services.

**4** **Regulatory framework**
Look into the legal barriers and opportunities regarding financial support measures for international rail passenger services, support measures for rolling stock, framework conditions for infrastructure charging, and necessary financial incentives to stimulate new transport services.