



# **Rules of Consultation between the Management Board and the Advisory Groups of the AWB RFC / RFC10 in line with Regulation (EU) No. 913/2010**

## **I. Basic provisions**

1. The Management Board (hereinafter referred to as 'MB') sets up one Advisory Group (hereinafter referred to as 'AG') made up of managers and owners of the terminals of Alpine-Western Balkan Rail Freight Corridor (hereinafter referred to as 'AWB RFC').
2. The MB sets up one further AG made up of railway undertakings (hereinafter referred to as 'RUs') interested in the use of the AWB RFC.
3. Participation in the AGs is on a voluntary basis.
4. The AGs may issue an opinion on any proposal by the MB which has direct consequences for AG Members. The AGs may also issue own-initiative opinions. The MB shall take any of the opinions of the AGs into account.
5. The MB is responsible for organization and financing of at least one regular AG meeting per year per AG and of consultation between MB and AGs. The MB and the AG may jointly decide about additional meetings if necessary.
6. Meetings of the AGs are financed by the AG Members themselves. Members of the AGs will not be reimbursed by the corridor organization for their expenses.
7. The MB defines only the rules applicable between the MB and the AGs, but the MB does not define the process of communication and the procedure for opinion-making inside the AGs.

## **II. Formulation and representation of the opinions of the AGs**

8. Each AG elects its own representative (hereinafter referred to as 'Spokesperson') for a defined time period, and informs the Secretariat of the AWB RFC (hereinafter referred to as 'Secretariat') and the responsible MB Member in charge of management of AGs of the AWB RFC about the name and contact details of the AG Spokespersons. The Spokespersons of the AGs collect the opinions of AG Member companies, and communicate the opinion of the AGs to the MB.



9. A sole opinion of an AG shall be communicated to the MB, and not individual opinions of AG Members.
10. The possibility for joining and leaving both AGs shall always be open. The Secretariat and the responsible MB Member in charge of management of AGs shall be informed by the Spokesperson of names and contact details of newly joined and/or leaving AG Members.

### III. Procedure of consultation between MB and AGs

11. The MB prefers to communicate with the AGs via the Spokespersons of the AGs. This shall, however, not exclude the possibility of direct communication of any AG member with the MB if needed.
12. For the AGs the contact point on the side of the MB is the Secretariat whose contact details are to be found below as well as on the website of the corridor (to be launched in April 2019). Therefore, the AG and further external Parties should address the Secretariat in written form in case of sending the opinion of the AG, asking for clarifications, etc. Every written initiative has to be answered by the MB in written form via the Secretariat. In case of change in the contact details of the Secretariat, it is the responsibility of the MB to communicate that towards the AGs in written form.
13. The Secretariat shall always be put in copy of any communication with the responsible MB Member in charge of management of AGs.

Contact details of the Secretariat:

**AWB RFC Secretariat**

Alpine-Western Balkan Rail Freight Corridor  
Secretariat

SŽ-Infrastruktura, d.o.o.  
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Tel.: +386 3 29 33338  
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awb-secretariat@slo-zeleznice.si  
<http://www.slo-zeleznice.si>

14. The Secretariat circulates the documents for consultation by sending them to each AG Member by e-mail but receives the opinions of the AGs only from the Spokespersons of the AGs.
15. The language of communication between the MB and the AGs shall be English.
16. Forms of communication between Advisory Group members and the Management Board are:



- E-mail communication
- National conferences
- AWB RFC RAG/TAG international conferences with AG members organized by MB.

17. Regular meetings of the AGs are held at least once per year. The MB and the AG may jointly decide about additional meetings, if necessary. Regular meetings are organized by the Secretariat in cooperation with the hosting IM.

18. AG Members and their experts, MB Members and their experts, Executive Board Members and their experts and representatives of the European Commission may take part in the AG meetings depending on the items on the agenda. The AGs may decide to invite further persons to an AG meeting depending on the items on the agenda.

#### **IV. Utilization of opinions of the AGs**

19. The MB takes any opinion of the AGs into account.

20. If the MB cannot meet the requests or expectations expressed by an AG opinion, the MB gives an explanation to the AG, and continues consultation with the aim to reach agreement.

21. In the event of disagreement between the MB and an AG, the latter may refer the matter to the EB. The EB shall act as an intermediary and provide its opinion in due time. The final decision however shall be taken by the MB.