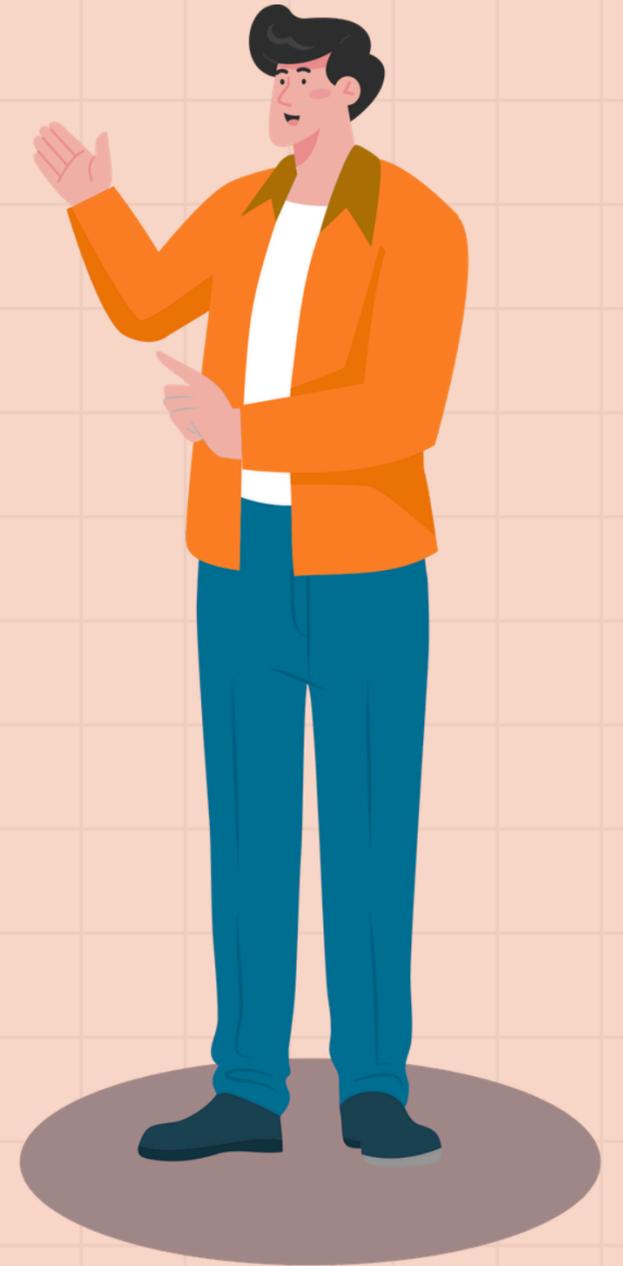NEWS
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ERTMS® - THIRD WORK PLAN OF THE EUROPEAN COORDINATOR MATTHIAS RUETE

February 2026

#ERTMS 2026 Work Plan

Highlights

- ERTMS® is **essential to modernise and digitalise** Europe's railways

- Political **consensus now supports full ERTMS® deployment** across the EU

- The challenge is no longer if, but **how fast** to deploy ERTMS®

- Deployment must **synchronise infrastructure and rolling stock**

- **High costs** and complex procedures **slow roll-out**

- **Stronger EU governance** and coordination are needed

- ERTMS® should be treated as a **strategic European transformation project**

Trackside deployment in the EU

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Only 10% of the TEN-T network (12.400 km) had ETCS in operation by end-2024

Around 51% of the core network is planned to be equipped by 2030

Deployment remains uneven across Member States, creating a fragmented network

Roll-out is accelerating but 2028–2030 plans appear highly ambitious

Industrial scaling and national commitment will determine success

#ERTMS 2026 Work Plan

On-board deployment in the EU

- Around 8.730 vehicles were already equipped with ETCS at the end of 2024
- Since 2021, around 3.400 vehicles have been put into operation, meaning an average of 850 vehicles per year

2030

The number of vehicles equipped with ERTMS® in EU is expected to rise to 18.000 vehicles.

This corresponds to 40% of the estimated fleet.

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Cost drivers & solutions

COST DRIVERS

- Engineering & configuration complexity
- Lengthy authorisation procedures
- Unstable national planning/funding

SOLUTIONS

- Reduction of ESC test
- Increase modularity in desing and product updates
- Broader harmonisation
- Commmon Harmonised operational rules

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#ERTMS 2026 Work Plan

Harmonisation is key

More uniform ERTMS® trackside implementation

Develop new tools to industrialise work on ERTMS® projects

Harmonisation of system architecture

Harmonisation of engineering and operational rules

Reducing variability of ERTMS® deployment

Limit the number of individuals working on national specificities

#ERTMS 2026 Work Plan

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> The business case analysis for ERTMS deployment should be updated; identifying the relevant costs, analysing the potential to increase infrastructure capacity and efficiency as well as potential sources of finance.