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Unlocking Seamless Multimodality in Europe: Air–Rail Integration Takes Centre Stage as MultiModX Concludes with Two Landmark Events

(Paris/Brussels, 27 November 2025) Europe is accelerating towards a more connected, sustainable, and passenger-centric mobility system. On 12 and 13 November 2025, two high-level events marked a milestone for the EU-funded project *MultiModX – Integrated Passenger-Centric Planning of Multimodal Transport Networks*, supported by the SESAR Joint Undertaking.

Air–Rail Integration Takes the Stage at the European Parliament

On 12 November, Members of the European Parliament, industry leaders, passenger representatives, and research experts gathered in Brussels for a policy lunch debate titled **“Unlocking Seamless Multimodality in Europe: Enabling Passenger-Centric Air–Rail Integration through Policy, Data, and Collaboration.”**

Hosted by **MEP Sophia Kircher**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), the event was co-organised by three major multimodal research initiatives: **SIGN-AIR**, **MultiModX**, and **TRAVELWISE**. SIGN-AIR and MultiModX are supported by the **SESAR Joint Undertaking**, while TRAVELWISE is jointly funded by **Europe’s Rail** and **SESAR**.

“Europe grows together through its transport networks – by rail, by road, and by air. But true connectivity can only succeed when ticketing, systems, and standards are aligned. That’s the way forward!”

— **Sophia Kircher, MEP**, Host of the event

Representing SESAR JU, **Executive Director Andreas Boschen** stressed the importance of integrating aviation within the broader mobility ecosystem:

“Air transport does not exist in isolation. Making journeys seamless means aviation must connect effectively with the wider mobility system. We are working to make multimodal travel a reality, so passengers can move smoothly between air, rail, and other modes with reliable information and minimal hassle.”

Passengers Still Face Fragmented Journeys

Despite long-standing ambitions, **90% of air–rail multimodal trips today are self-assembled by passengers**. Travellers must juggle separate tickets, price systems, and disruption responses—often with little guidance.

“Passengers shouldn’t need to be detectives to plan a simple journey,”

said **Delphine Grandsart** from the European Passengers’ Federation.

“If Europe wants people to choose sustainable travel, it must offer seamless information, fair prices, and real protection across the entire journey.”

Concrete Solutions from EU Research

Each project presented advances that bring Europe closer to true multimodality:

SIGN-AIR

Building the legal, contractual, and data-sharing foundations for multimodality, including smart agreements, interoperability templates, and tools to validate combined air–rail itineraries.

“Multimodality will never work without trust. SIGN-AIR is building the missing legal and data foundation,”

said **Ismeni Stroumpou**, Project Coordinator.

MultiModX

Delivering open-source tools for performance assessment, schedule optimisation, and disruption management across integrated air–rail networks.

“Europe needs holistic, data-driven regulation that evaluates door-to-door performance. Only then will passengers experience seamless travel,”

said **Prof. Andrew Cook**, University of Westminster.

TRAVELWISE

Providing real-time multimodal situational awareness and joint operational plans tested at major hubs such as Paris CDG, Amsterdam Schiphol, and Bologna.

“When air, rail, and other partners finally see the same information, they can coordinate and safeguard the passenger journey,”

said **Micol Biscotto**, Deep Blue.

Clear Priorities for the Next EU Mobility Cycle

Speakers aligned around five urgent policy needs:

- EU-wide **integrated ticketing** with transparent and real-time data access
- **Stronger multimodal passenger rights**, including cross-mode journey continuation
- Incentives for **timetable synchronisation** and cooperation at major hubs
- A European framework for **coordinated multimodal disruption management**
- Investment in **open mobility data and modelling** to support performance-driven policymaking

As the organisers concluded, **2026 will be decisive** in determining whether multimodality becomes the European passenger norm—or remains a patchwork of isolated systems.

MultiModX Final Conference Highlights 3 Years of Innovation

On 13 November, the **Airport Regions Council (ARC)** hosted the **MultiModX Final Event**, bringing together stakeholders from the rail, aviation, and regional mobility sectors.

Opening remarks were delivered by:

- **Sergio Alegre Calero**, Director General, ARC
- **Erich Valentin**, President, ARC
- **Marcello Kivel Mazuy**, Innovation Manager at SESAR JU, outlined SESAR's efforts to fund multimodal projects and shared the organisation's forward-looking vision for a more integrated, digital, and sustainable European mobility system.
- **Dr Eric Tchouamou Njoya**, MultiModX Project Coordinator (Bauhaus Luftfahrt), presented the project's overall achievements, emphasising its **performance-driven approach** to air–rail integration.

Three Core Technical Solutions Presented

Schedule Design Solution

Lucía Menéndez-Pidal de Cristina (Nommon) showcased tools to optimise integrated air–rail timetables.

Disruption Management Solution

Christopher Szymula (TU Dresden) demonstrated enhanced multimodal coordination using an improved A-CDM approach.

Performance Assessment Solution

Luis Delgado (University of Westminster) introduced methodologies to evaluate environmental and passenger impacts through robust performance indicators.

Panel Discussion: The Future of Passenger-Centric Multimodality

A high-level panel moderated by **Sergio Alegre Calero** featured:

- **Daniel Freire** (Renfe Operadora), who highlighted operational challenges in aligning air and rail services, including infrastructure, service patterns, and customer experience
- **Jan Eklund**, Swedavia AB
- **Jan Brumagne** (European Commission DG MOVE), who reaffirmed the need for a fully integrated and seamless multimodal system

Panellists highlighted the need to align operational practices, passenger rights, and sustainability goals across modes.

A Lasting Legacy for Europe's Future Mobility

The two events reaffirmed the collective commitment of EU institutions, industry partners, passenger groups, and research organisations to make **seamless, sustainable multimodal travel a reality**.

The MultiModX consortium—**Bauhaus Luftfahrt, Nommon, Airport Regions Council, TU Dresden, the International Union of Railways (UIC), and the University of Westminster**—leaves behind a strong legacy of validated solutions and policy recommendations that will support Europe's transition toward a fully integrated mobility ecosystem.

The MultiModX project is available on social media; follow us on Twitter @MultiModX_eu and [LinkedIn](#). You can also keep an eye out for our soon-to-be-published website: <https://multimodx.eu/>, and more information is available on the [SESAR website](#).



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