



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF RAILWAYS

# Fostering an international approach to support freight in Europe

## ➤ **CORRIDORS AS VECTORS FOR COOPERATION**

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RAME webinar, 14 October 2020

# Corridor beginnings, 2004...

- RNE: Rail Net Europe (created 2004, by IMs and Capacity Allocation Bodies)
- Exclusively on railway corridors, numbered 1 to 11
- Voluntary coordination common processes and tools (ex. pathfinder, real-time train data, etc.)



# Initial multi-modal corridors, 2007-2013

- Multimodal but with rail priority
- 30 projects
- Budget EU 2007-2013: 8 billion euros
  - Cofinancing studies up to 50%
  - Realisation projects up to 20/30%
- On total EU Budget of 225 billion euros



# Rail Freight Corridors (RFCs), 2010...



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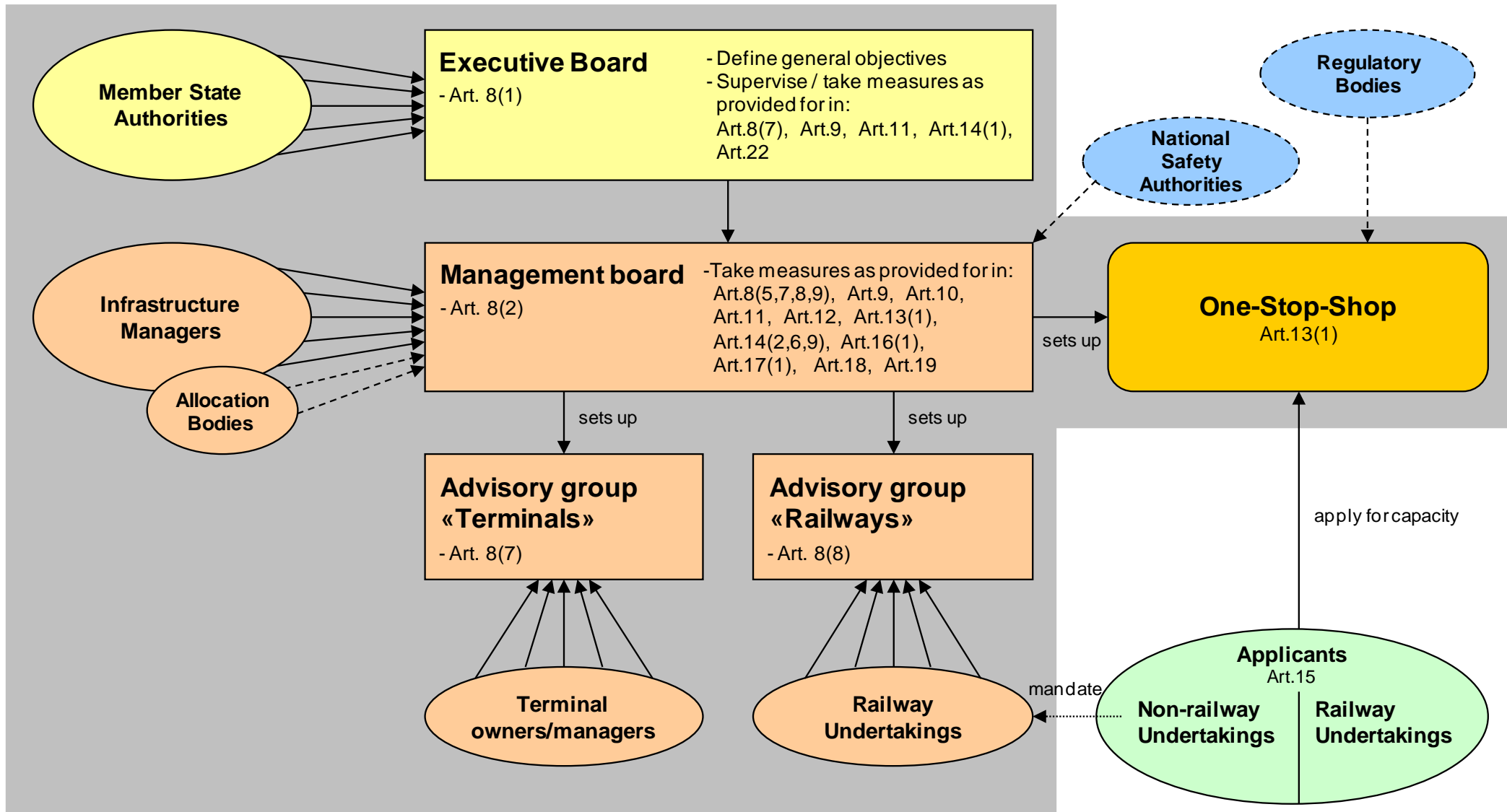
# Corridor basics

- Corridors chosen along existing traffic flows and potential, promising new flows
- Connect to transcontinental corridors via Belorussia, Turkey and the Black Sea.

## Principle products:

- Offer guaranteed paths along the corridors
  - Coordinate works along the corridor
  - Coordinate disruption management
- Corridors are legal entity, with a management structure, a Railway Advisory Group and an Executive Board with states' representation.

# RFC Governance



# Rail Freight Corridor (RFC) Network overview

EU policy: Regulation (EU) No 913/2010:  
**Implementation and development of Europe-wide network of Rail Freight Corridors**  
(Additional to TEN-T Regulation)

## Geographics

- ❖ **11 corridors, completion 2030.**
- ❖ In the eyes of RUs, corridors are precursor of Network wide TEN-T parameter implementation

Objective of Regulation:  
**Make rail freight compatible with other modes.**

Good quality and sufficiently financed railway infrastructure > freight transport services to be provided under good conditions:

- Compatible **commercial speed**
- Compatible **journey times**
- **Reliable:** service provided by Infra Manager (IM) corresponds to contractual agreement between IM and Railway Undertakings (RUs).

## Products:

Capacity reserved for freight, coordinated across borders, platform for international traffic issues to be addressed, coordination of Works along the corridor, coordination of disruption management

# Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)





# Harmonised infrastructure

## Main infra parameters for corridors:

- **ERTMS**
- **Loading gauge P400**
- **Electrification**
- **740m trains**
- **22.5 tons axle load**

## UIC corridor requirements and parameter study:

<https://uic.org/IMG/pdf/requirements-ru-4the-implementation-of-european-rail-freight-corridors.pdf>

# Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) overview

EU policy: Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013:  
Implementation and development of Europe-wide  
network of:

- Railway lines and terminals
- Roads
- Inland waterways & Maritime shipping routes
- Ports & Airports

Part of EU objective: Single European Transport Area:  
Seamless, safe and sustainable mobility of persons  
and goods

Geographics

- ❖ Core Network: **9 corridors, completion of parameter implementation 2030.**
- ❖ Comprehensive Network: covers all European regions completion 2050

Objective of Regulation:

- Close gaps
- Remove bottlenecks
- Remove technical barriers (harmonized infrastructure)
- Strengthen social, economic and territorial cohesion in the EU

Standard parameters for harmonized infrastructure:  
**740m trains, 22.5 max axle load, loading gauge CP70/400, electrification, ERTMS**

Tools

- ❖ Financial incentives via different support programs.

# What rail freight needed:

- **Smooth, 'borderless' international traffic**
  - **harmonised infrastructure parameters, rules, procedures**
- **Smooth interchange between modes**
- **Enough capacity conforming to market needs**



# EU response:

- **Rail Freight Corridors offering guaranteed capacity**
- **Trans-European Network corridors to**
  - **stimulate and concentrate infrastructure investments**
  - **implement standard, high-level infra parameters;**
- **SERA uniforming national regulations**



# Trans-European Network and Rail Freight Corridors

## Challenge for Rail:

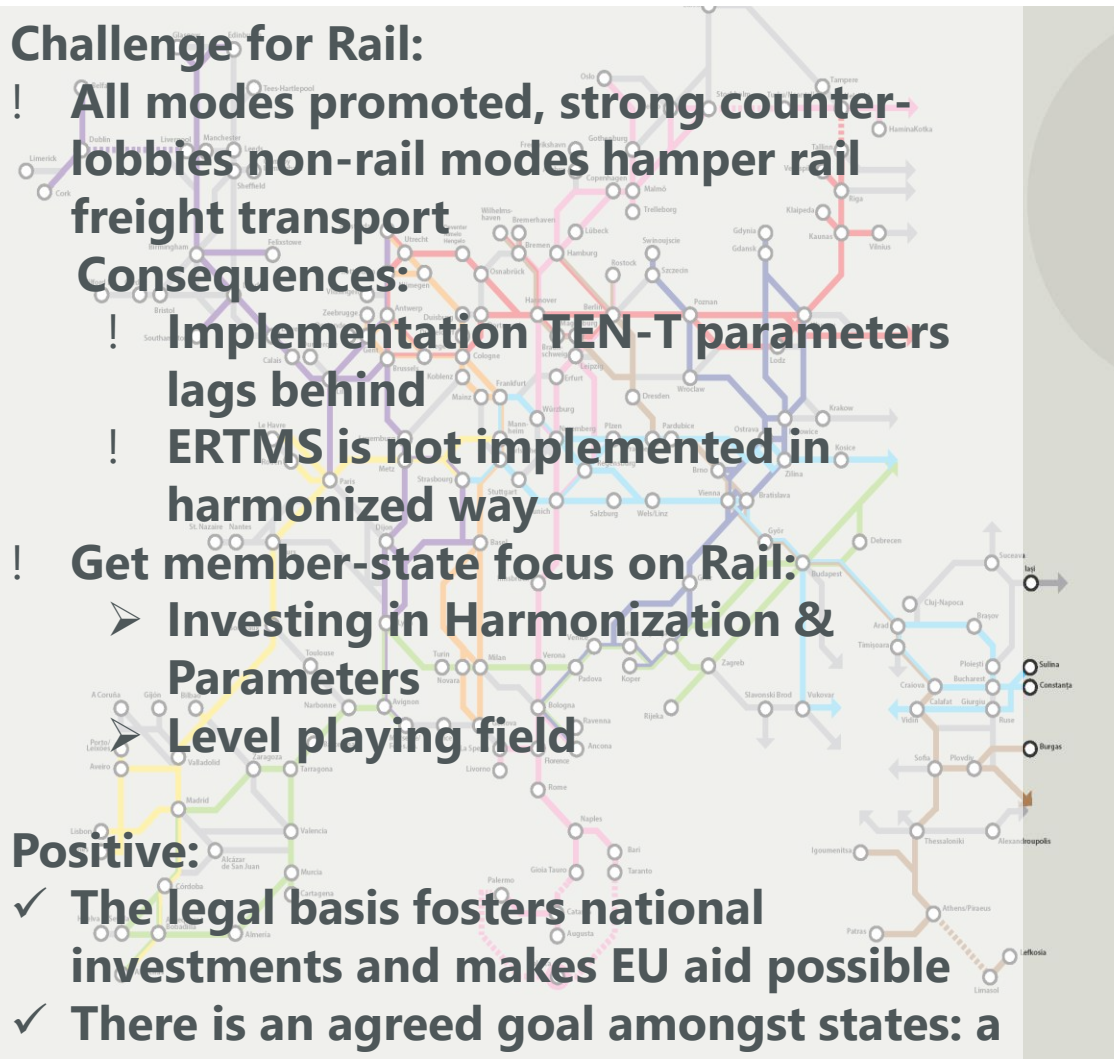
! All modes promoted, strong counter-lobbies non-rail modes hamper rail freight transport

## Consequences:

- ! Implementation TEN-T parameters lags behind
- ! ERTMS is not implemented in harmonized way
- ! Get member-state focus on Rail:
  - Investing in Harmonization & Parameters
  - Level playing field

## Positive:

- ✓ The legal basis fosters national investments and makes EU aid possible
- ✓ There is an agreed goal amongst states: a Single European Railway Area.
- ✓ UIC objectives match EU objectives



- RF-C1 Rhine - Alpine
- RF-C2 North Sea - Mediterranean
- RF-C3 Scandinavian - Mediterranean
- RF-C4 Atlantic
- RF-C5 Baltic - Adriatic
- RF-C6 Mediterranean
- RF-C7 Orient / East-Med
- RF-C8 North Sea - Baltic
- RF-C9 Czech-Slovak / Rhine - Danube
- RF-C10 Alpine - Western Balkan
- RF-C11 Amber

## Challenge for Rail:

! Regulations cannot be enforced.

## Consequences:

! Products mostly not market oriented or sub-par

## Positive:

- ✓ Flexible paths
- ✓ There is an official international platform, recognized by all EU governments, where IMs and RUs meet and can address their issues related to international freight. RUs are increasingly heard.

## Cooperation is fostered.

- ✓ ICM
- ✓ RUs unite in their messaging
- ✓ IMs cooperate more on cross border lines

- ✓ Harmonization of processes is taking place, UIC often coordinator



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# International Contingency Management

## **Rastatt, Germany, Corridor 1 Rhine-Alpine Interruption 12th August – 2nd October 2017**

### **Finding 1:**

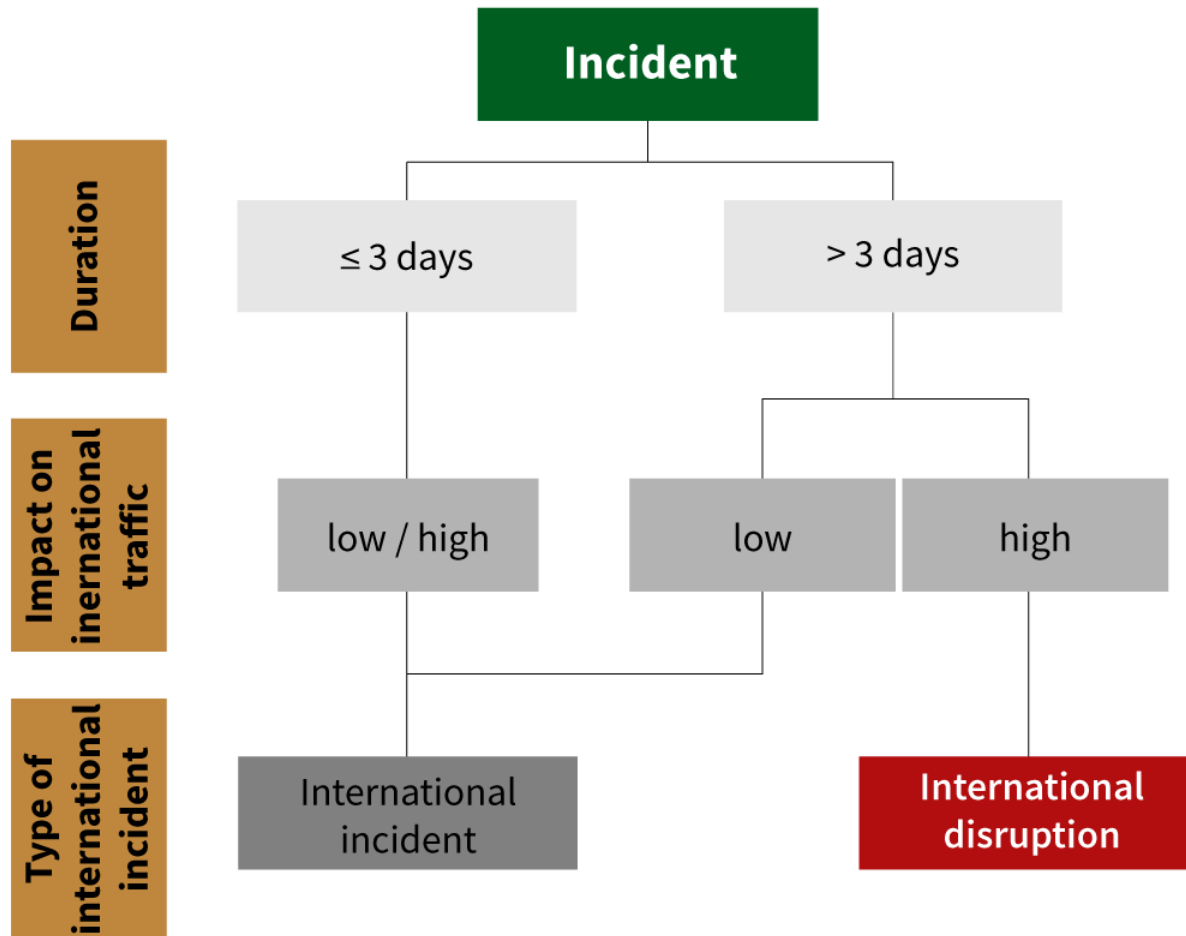
- **The interruption of Rastatt brought the automated production to a complete stop on the Rhine-Alpine Corridor.**
- **From up to 200 block trains per day only a maximum of 70-80 could be diverted.**
- **Rail diversions covered only 1/3 of demand**

### **Finding 2:**

**National railway regulations prevent RUs from being fast, flexible, compensatory and highly adaptive:**

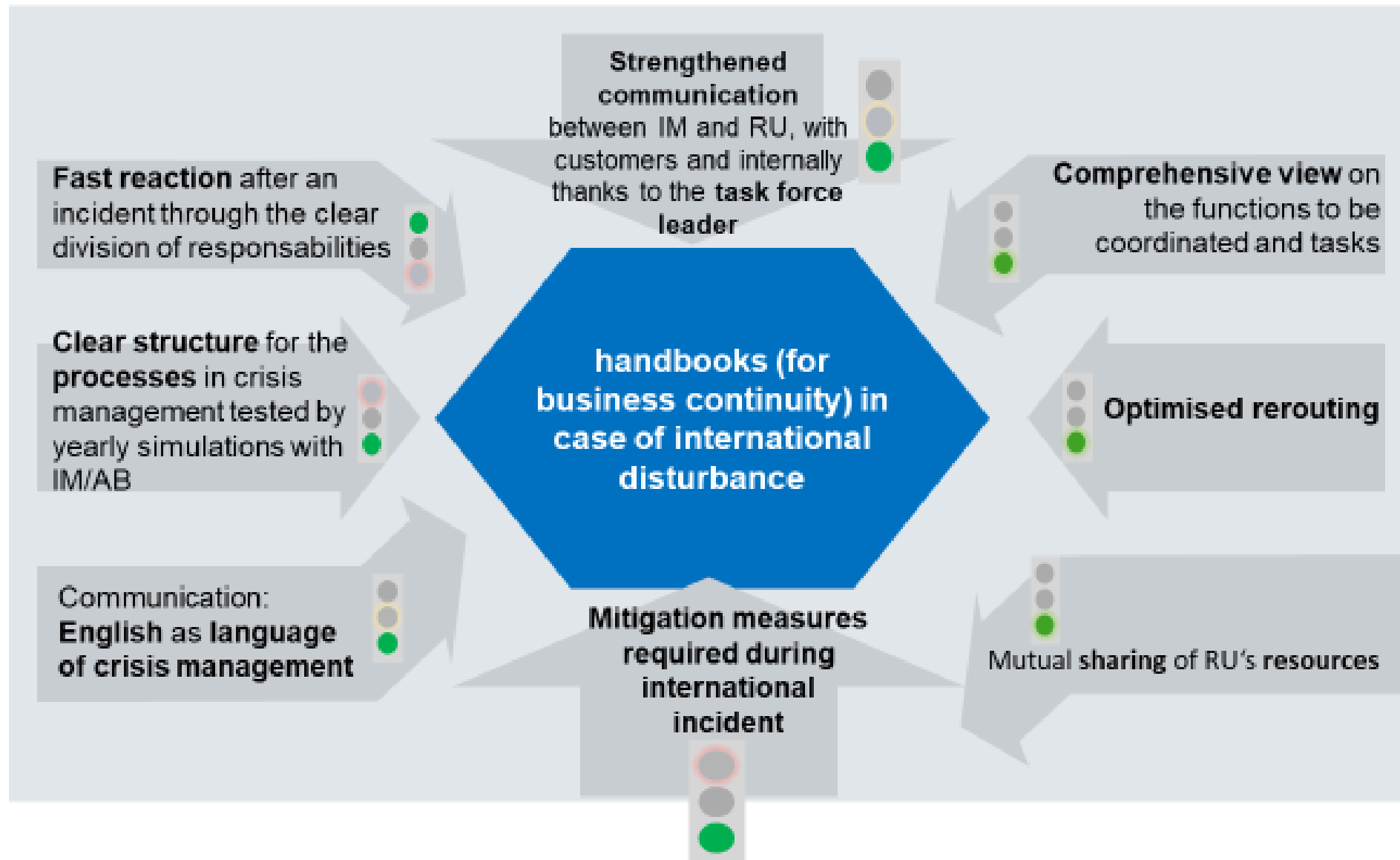
- **Official language**
- **Route knowledge**
- **Driving licences**
- **Loco type approval & registration**
- **Etc..**

# What is an international disruption?



Source: RNE website

# How rail sector deals with international contingencies





# Railway Undertakings' Handbook for International Contingency Management



- Freight railway handbook accessible via UIC website
- Published as UIC IRS end 2020
- Inframangers handbook accessible via RNE website

[https://uic.org/IMG/pdf/railway\\_undertaking\\_s\\_handbook\\_for\\_international\\_contingency\\_management\\_1.0.pdf](https://uic.org/IMG/pdf/railway_undertaking_s_handbook_for_international_contingency_management_1.0.pdf)  
[https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/International\\_Contingency\\_Management\\_Handbook\\_final\\_v1.5.pdf](https://rne.eu/wp-content/uploads/International_Contingency_Management_Handbook_final_v1.5.pdf)

# Conclusion

- ✓ Example of international cooperation fostered by corridor concept
- ✓ Success that can be long-lasting
- ✓ Of increasing importance as quality goes up
- ✓ UIC as coordinator of railway undertakings' work



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**Thank you for your kind attention.**