



Towards a European Single Rail Area

Harmonization and unification of rail transport law and standards in the European Union

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Creating a single European rail area

Challenges

Fully integrated State railways,
National monopolies

National technical rules and
standards

Stagnating modal share

Lack of market orientation

Increasing costs and
indebtedness

Outdated technologies

Policy actions

Objectives

High quality, customer oriented
transport services

Economic and technical level
playing field

Cost efficient operations, lower
need for public funding

Market driven innovation



Competitive, attractive railways

A common set of economic principles

- **Independence** of infrastructure managers from railway undertakings
- **Transparency** of financial flows / accounting separation
- **Financing** of infrastructure managers activities
- Non-discriminatory and affordable track **access charges**
- Non-discriminatory and transparent **capacity allocation** process
- Non-discriminatory access to **service facilities**
- **Licensing** of railway undertakings (process, requirements, validity)
- **Independent Regulatory Body** at national level
- **Competitive tendering** of public service contracts

A comprehensive regulatory framework at EU level

MARKET PILLAR

**Market access, corporate
governance**

Public service contracts

**European competitive network of
rail freight corridors**

TECHNICAL PILLAR

Interoperability of the rail system

Railway safety

Train driver licensing

**European Union Agency for
Railways (ERA)**

**Dangerous goods, Passenger rights, Social field - working time / hours,
Trans-European Network & Connecting Facility**



Framework activities at EU level

- **Committees for adoption of implementing measures** (SERAC, RISC)
- **Stakeholder platforms and expert groups** (ENRRB, PRIME, GERM, RUD)
- **Industrial research and innovation program** (S2R)
- **Rail Market Monitoring Survey** (RMMS report)
- **Harmonisation + management of safety & interoperability standards** (European Union Agency for Railways 'ERA')





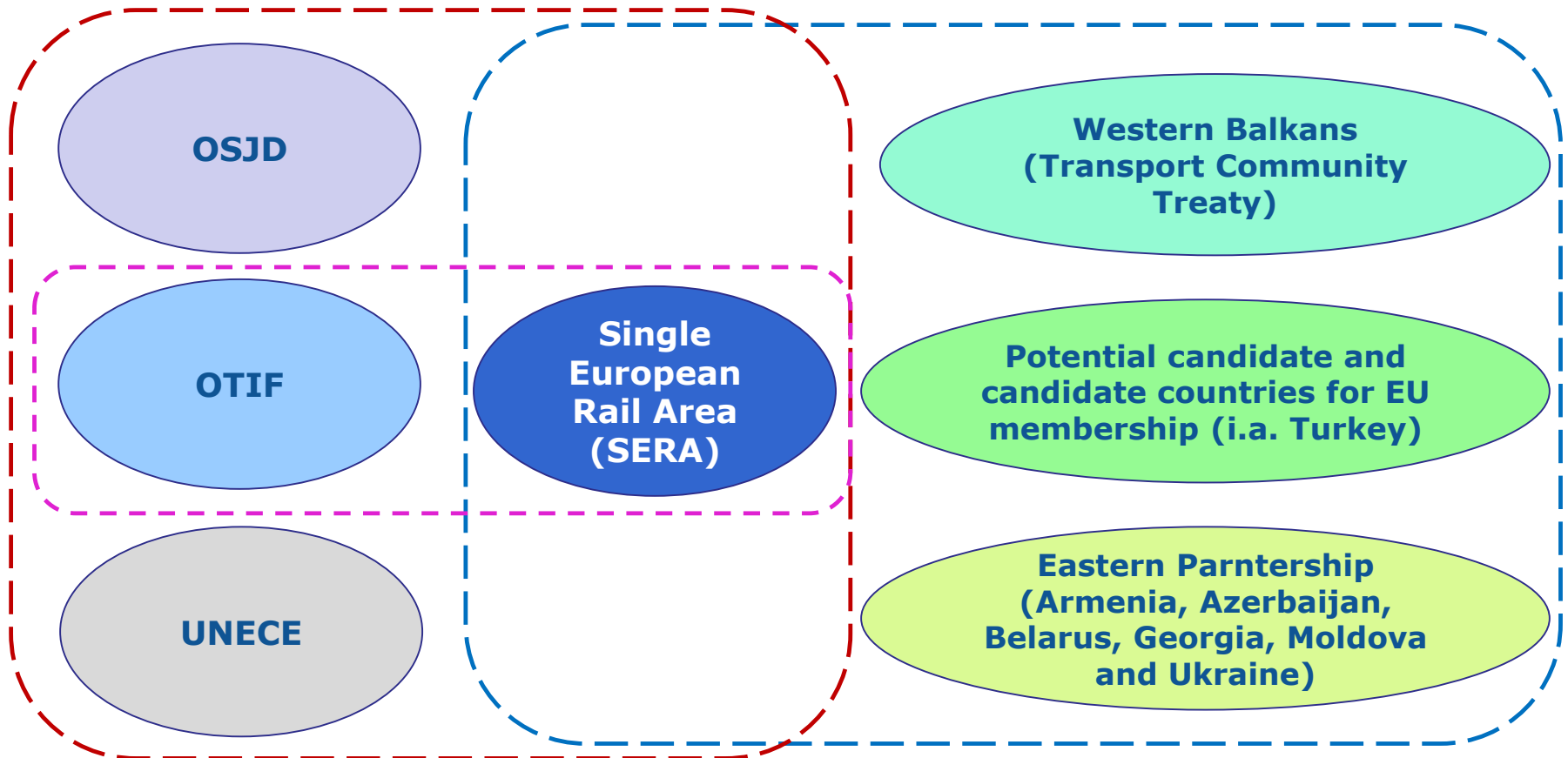
A legally binding framework enforceable at EU level



A step-by-step process (e.g. market pillar)



Role and contribution of the single European rail area to the broader process of harmonisation of rail transport law



Illustrative case: Alpine-Western Balkans RFC (n°10)



Ways for improving the harmonisation and quality of international railway law

- Shared understanding of fundamental administrative and economic principles > **regulatory convergence, structural reforms**
- Step-by-step approach > **prioritization, consensus building**
- Integrated approach > **transport policy strategy**
- Co-operation with relevant international organizations and industry associations > **synergies, complementarity**



Thank you for your attention!