**Objective**

Telecommunications is a highly strategic topic for Infrastructure Managers (IMs) as it enables safe and secure communication related to railway operations. The current railway mobile telecom technology, GSM-R, will be phased out by 2030. Therefore, the rail sector is busy working on the requirements for a successor technology. The future railway mobile communication system (called ‘FRMCS’) is currently being defined and its roll out is expected to start from 2023. The issue is being addressed by the European Commission, the EU Agency for Railways (ERA), as well as the EU standardisation bodies.

**Regulation (EU) 2016/919 on the Technical Specification for Interoperability relating to the Control-Command and Signalling (CCS TSI) applies to telecommunications.** Although FRMCS is not yet included in the CCS TSI, it is anticipated that parts of its specifications shall be incorporated in the next update of the TSI.

**Involvement of Infrastructure Managers**

The FRMCS will have significant importance for IMs. Ensuring an effective migration between the current GSM-R and the future technology will be essential for IMs to save operational costs and spectrum frequencies. Appropriate allocation of spectrum will be key to enabling the re-use of existing GSM-R infrastructure for the future use of FRMCS and limit implementation costs for IMs.

**EIM in action**

- EIM’s Telecom Working Group (TEL WG) supports the strategy for the Future Railway Mobile Telecom system (FRMCS) in cooperation with the ERTMS community;
- EIM advocates a high-performing, robust and cost-efficient FRMCS, as well as a clear migration plan between the two telecom systems.