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Title of the presentation

VISION 2050 - TOWARDS A SOCIETY OVERWELMINGLY SERVED BY RAIL

Abstract (400-500 words)

The White Paper on the future of mobility assigns a relevant role to sustainable railway transport. The desirable future scenario is supposed to deliver an economically efficient and environmentally friendly multi modal transport system, with electrified rail playing a central role. The goal is to significantly improve European quality of life. The White Paper sets ambitious targets in term of shift to rail: overall more than 50% of passenger and freight traffic will have to be operated by electrified rail.

Such a vision is very demanding and challenging both under the technological and the economical points of view. The study identifies the targets for freight and passengers to be met in order to achieve the goals set by the White Paper of a society overwhelmingly served by electrified rail, then selects the technical, organisational and technological measures needed to be implemented in order to meet those targets and finally evaluates the strategy by means of a Cost Benefit Analysis and an Impact Assessment.

The 2050 mobility vision imagined in the White Paper requires an increase in rail passenger transport volume by 2.8 fold, from 404 bPKm in 2010 to 1.147 bPKm in 2050, with a crucial role played by the development of the High Speed Rail concept whose increase in envisaged by 4.6 fold, and an increase in rail freight transport volume by 4 fold, from 390 btKm in 2010 to 1.560 bPKm in 2050.

The study identifies co-modal solutions and measures that are able to cover the biggest part of the quantitative challenge of the vision by aiming at the most important objectives for freight, passenger and infrastructure. All tools and solutions enhance rail services in terms of quality, capacity and efficiency to realise a shift to rail and to make the railway system capable of this shift.

The study continues with a Cost Benefit Analysis aiming at evaluating under a public and socially comprehensive point of view the economical feasibility and convenience of the solutions implementation and of the vision. The results are hugely positive and the main driver of effectiveness results to be the increase in efficiency of the rail system envisaged within 2050.

Finally, the Impact Assessment evaluates the expected impacts of the identified measures and solutions on the 2050 mobility vision.