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Translation

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Specification of criteria for the computer-aided production of passenger and freight train timetables

*Définition des critères concernant l'élaboration des horaires des trains de voyageurs et de marchandises
à l'aide de systèmes informatiques*

*Festlegung der Kriterien zur Erstellung der Personen- und Güterzugfahrpläne mit Unterstützung von
DV-Systemen*



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Summary

After a description of objectives, this leaflet provides in point 3 a detailed list of all specifications which may be of relevance to the Railways when compiling Passenger and Freight train timetables by computer. The catalogue incorporates the requirements of infrastructure managers and operating companies in full coherence with European Union directives.

Each company can pick and choose in the catalogue those specifications which best meet its needs, for use in its IT system when compiling timetables.

1 - General

In the past, timetables were produced manually by all European Railways. This also required, and to some extent still does involve, a number of time-consuming activities such as:

- ascertaining running times from the tables of standard runs,
- calculation of the running time of a train from individual running times,
- plotting the time-distance line for the train on the timetable graph.

It was therefore absolutely necessary to create an IT-based system to assist and relieve the timetable planner in designing the timetable, thereby considerably accelerating and simplifying the entire iterative process of producing the annual timetable.

With this aim, several European Railways have started to set up data-processing systems to assist in timetable planning.

It is now necessary, for these systems and for all Railways which do not yet possess such systems, to formulate standard specifications from the standpoint of the user, in the form of a catalogue of requirements. This catalogue would cover all possible requirements according to the Working Group. UIC Railways are recommended to take from this catalogue those parts which are relevant to their needs.

This approach is also in harmony with the directives of the European Union (EU) regarding the development of Community Railways, and with the arrangements for access to railway infrastructure. Here there is a mandatory requirement that in future new undertakings entering the market shall also enjoy non-discriminatory access rights. For the purpose, a system of capacity allocation and infrastructure charging will have to be established, applied in accordance with the same principles throughout the Community, and based on non-discrimination.

The catalogue of requirements for computer-assisted timetable planning is intended as a contribution towards meeting this objective. For further details on this aspect, see point 3 - page 5.

The overall catalogue contained in this leaflet is purely recommendatory for all Railways.