Current arrangements and implementation of the reform Ms Laura Eiro, Director of Markets Unit





Current passenger rail transport arrangements in Finland

- Competent authorities the Ministry of Transport and Communications and HSL – have concluded agreements with VR which guarantee VR the following exclusive rights:
 - Agreement between HSL and VR guarantee exclusive right for VR until June 2021 (commuter rail services in the Helsinki region)
 - Agreement between the Ministry of Transport and Communications and VR would guarantee VR an exclusive right to provide all other passenger transport services in the current rail network until the end of 2024 (all other areas in Finland)



Photo: Rodeo/Juha Tuomi

Passenger transport in the rail network

- Helsinki area commuter and regional rail services: 70 million journeys (1.1 billion passenger-kilometres)
- Long-distance passenger rail transport: 12 million journeys (2.8 billion passenger-kilometres)

Passenger journeys on rail network in Finland in 2016

Long-distance traffic 12,047 million



Division of passenger transport in Finland





Rail transport trends

Trends of rail transport in Finland 2005-2016



Consumer price trend

Consumer price trend in 2010-2016





Contractual rail transport services 2017

Purchased services

- state support: EUR 30.2 million a year
- Government's proposal for 2018: an additional 2 million euros

Rail transport services under public service obligation

- no state support, obligation to provide services in return to the exclusive right to provide rail transport services (max. EUR 20 million a year).
- green: overnight train service



Competitive tendering of rail transport

- According to Government's decision a model based on concessions is considered best suited to the Finnish context
 - The rail network will be divided into 5 sections and service packages; each with its own concession contracts
 - The concession contracts will include public service obligations
 - The call for tenders will be prepared on open and transparent criteria
- Passenger rail transport services will be opened up to competition in stages
 - The opening to competition will start with regional rail services in Southern Finland
 - All contracts concluded and the ensuing transport systems operational in 2026
- In the planning of the tendering model and related schedule, attention has been given to the ongoing competitive tendering of the HRT commuter services
- Railway safety will be ensured in the new environment involving multiple operators
- The exclusive right agreement between the Ministry of Transport and Communications and VR will be renegotiated

Creating a level playing field

- The aim of the EU's fourth railway package is an open and non-discriminatory market entry to national passenger services
- Three wholly state-owned companies will be separated from VR to create a level playing field for all operators
 - a rolling stock company
 - a maintenance company
 - a real estate company
- The aim is that new state-owned companies will be established and separated from VR by the end of August 2018
- Staff will be transferred to the new state-owned companies so that they retain their current terms of employment
- VR will continue as a wholly state-owned rail transport company



Separation of state-owned companies from VR Group





Availability of rolling stock will be safeguarded

- A new state-owned rolling stock company will be established
- VR's rolling stock will be transferred to the new company in stages as the competitive tendering proceeds
- Rolling stock will be leased to operators under equal terms: counties will also be ensured access to rolling stock on the same terms
- The rolling stock company will be responsible for the procurement of new passenger rolling stock
- In Finland, the rail gauge is not the same as in most EU countries:
 - Second-hand rolling stock is not available from the other EU countries at a reasonable price
- In future, Finland would have two rolling stock companies operating under the mandate of two competent authorities: one rolling stock company for rail transport in the greater Helsinki area (Pääkaupunkiseudun junakalusto Oy) and another rolling stock company for rail services in the other areas of the country
- Rail transport freight rolling stock will also be transferred in stages with due attention to VR's transport agreements
- All operators will have equal access to rail transport freight rolling stock



Separate companies for maintenance services and real estates

- New, wholly state-owned companies will be established for maintenance and real estate services by separating the functions from VR
- To ensure equal access to maintenance service, it is necessary to provide them through an independent company
- The real estate company is to safeguard equal access to stations, terminals, depots and maintenance facilities



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Working group preparation

• Ministry of Transport and Communications has appointed working groups to prepare the details of the competitive tendering:





Thank you!

