



The European Railway Agency in development

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Head of Safety Unit



EU transport policy and the railways

EU rail transport policy and legislation:

- Opening up rail transport and rail supply market to competition
- Promotion of rail transport through EU funding
- From self-regulation to public regulation
- Separation of essential functions
- Technical harmonisation, mutual acceptance
- A common approach to safety
- Transparency – publication of rules and by public bodies



Core objectives and role of the Agency

Established by regulation 881/2004 and in place since 2005 – fully operational since 2006

Objectives:

- **To contribute, on technical matters, to the implementation of the EU legislation (Article 1 of the Regulation)**
- **To oversee the processes related to safety and interoperability and to provide greater impetus to the processes**



The Agency is controlled by an Administrative Board and has some binding principles for its work

The Administrative Board:

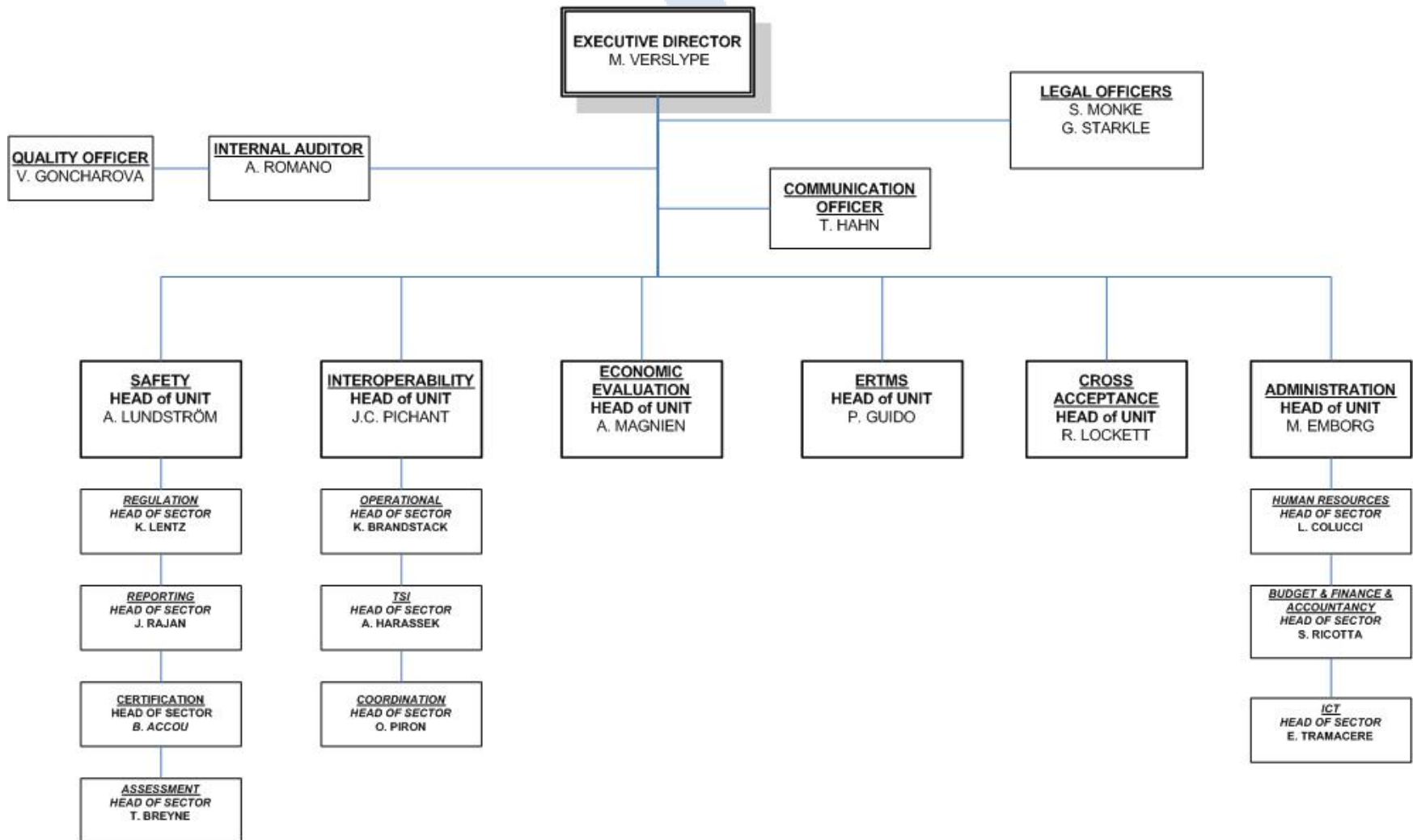
- 1 representative per **Member State**
- 4 **Commission** representatives
- 6 representatives of **sector organisations** (railway undertakings, infrastructure managers, railway industry, trade unions, passengers, freight customers) – *no voting rights*
- Norway and Iceland – *no voting rights*

The working principles:

- Budgetary and financial control with regular evaluation of all work
- Transparency and public access to documents
- Neutrality and impartiality



Organisation chart of the Agency





Legal basis for the Agency's work

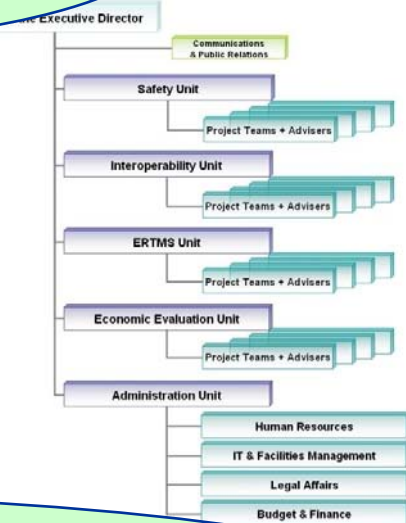
The Agency's tasks and, hence, its organisational structure are based on mainly **three components**:

Regulation (EC) No 881/2004
(Agency Regulation)

European directives
(railway safety directive,
interoperability directives,...)

Work Programme
(annually adopted by the Administrative Board)

ERA





Involvement of the sector

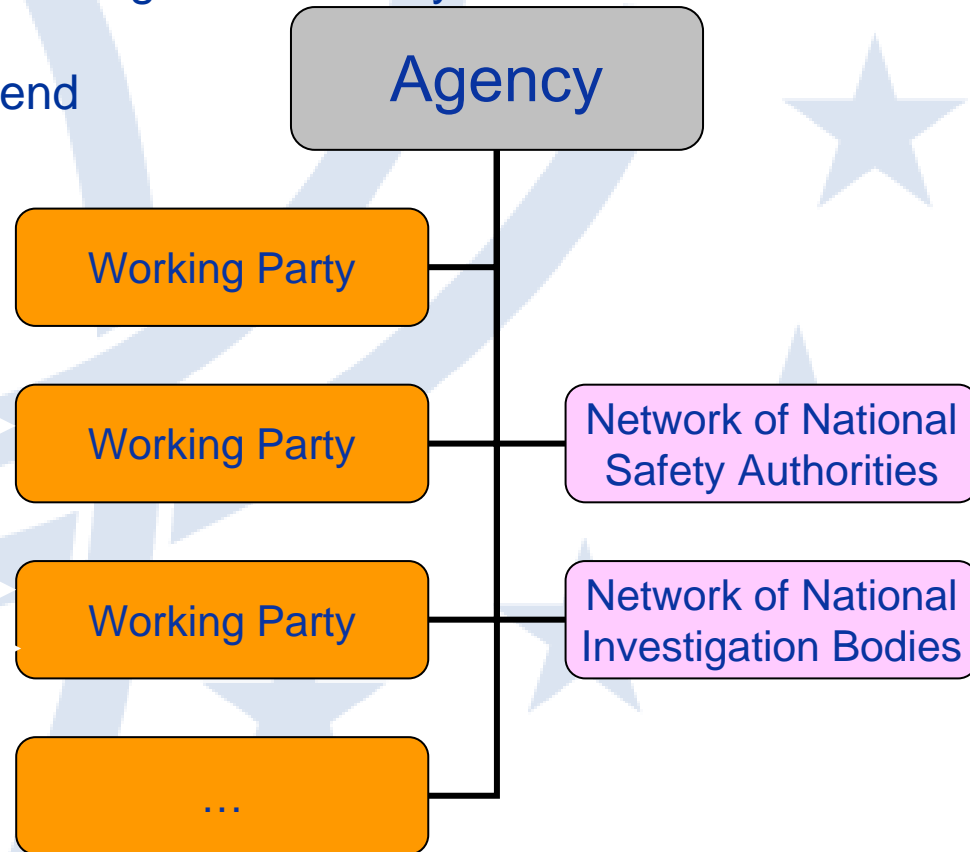
Article 3 of the Agency Regulation obliges the Agency to set up working groups according to the tasks given by this regulation and by the Work Programme.

The Sector Associations are asked to send experts to participate and contribute.

Sector organisations acting at European level*:

UNIFE, CER, EIM, UITP, UIP, UIRR, ERFA, ETF, ALE

National Safety Authorities' experts



* List established by Article 21 Committee on 22 February 2005



The process to decisions

No decision power for the Agency, the Agency gives recommendations to the Commission and technical opinions upon specific request!





Double location of the Agency

Offices in Valenciennes

Conference centre in Lille





Our work streams are related to mandates in Directives and in our founding regulation

- **Safety: develop further provisions of Directive 2004/49**
 - Common safety targets, methods and indicators
 - Safety management systems and certification schemes
 - Evaluation and publication of national rules
 - Reporting on development of safety
- **Interoperability: mandates in Directives 2008/57**
 - Drafting and reviewing technical specifications for interoperability (TSI)
 - Overseeing the work of notified bodies
 - Vocational competences, certification of training centres



ERTMS: System authority for specifications

- Change management ETCS and GSM-R specifications
- Configuration control and quality of baseline specifications
- Control Command and Signalling TSI development
- **Cross acceptance: New task in Directive 2008/57**
 - Developing the reference document of national rules
 - Overseeing processes for vehicle authorisations
- **Economic Evaluation**
 - Developing the Economic Evaluation Guidelines
 - Carrying out impact assessments of Agency proposals
 - Assessment of infrastructure projects



Networking with national bodies

- **National safety authorities cooperate at European level, supported by the Agency**
 - Harmonisation of decision-making principles
 - Exchange of best practices
 - Peer reviews in key authority areas
- **National investigation bodies cooperate the same way**
 - Development of investigation methods
 - Exchange of information on investigations and on best practices
 - Guidelines for better understanding of the provisions of the safety directive



The Agency's public database (ERADIS)

Objective: to ensure transparency and equal access

➤ Safety documents

- Licenses and safety certificates
- Accident investigation reports
- National safety rules
- Other information, e.g. safety indicators

➤ Interoperability documents

- “EC” declarations of verification of subsystems
- “EC” declarations of conformity of constituents
- Authorisation for placing in service
- Registers of infrastructure and rolling stock



Mainly towards building up administrative capacity and application of EU law

- **Means: seminars, on-site assistance, traineeships**
- **Safety authorities**
 - Assistance in setting up national authorities
 - Developing authority practices by exchange with EU members
 - Preparing partners for membership in the NSA network
- **Investigation bodies**
 - Application of the provisions of the safety directive
 - Sharing good practice in accident investigation
 - Preparing partners for membership in the NIB network

