

ICB

Industry Consultation Body

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Subject: ICB Position Paper on short-term steps for the Network Manager

Dear Mr Castelletti,

Dear Maurizio,

I have the pleasure of enclosing the ICB position paper on the short-term steps for the Network Manager, in preparation for RP3. This position has been developed by the ICB's Institutional Sub-Group, and subsequently adopted by a physical meeting of the Quick Response Team in July.

This paper builds on the advice delivered in the position from November 2016 on the long-term evolution of Network Management.

ICB Position Paper on short-term steps for the Network Manager

The ICB recognises the coordination of network functions through a Network Manager, to ensure optimised use of resources, as a crucial part of realising the ICB's vision for SES. The ICB's institutional sub-group spent 18 months developing the advice contained within the published ICB position on the long-term evolution of network management.

The published position presents a clear view on the long-term evolution of network management, with the priority to strengthen governance arrangements, but with no timeframe for change. Future work to define a pathway was intended, and at the request of the European Commission, the Institutional Sub-Group has since been addressing the short-term steps required to reform the Network Manager in preparation for RP3.

The attached position paper is the result of four months focused work on short-term steps for the Network Manager. The paper makes a number of recommendations for RP3, including that the Principles of a Network Manager presented in the ICB position on the long-term evolution of network management, should hold.

The headline recommendation is that the ICB believes that the ultimate end goal for the Network Manager should be a single legal entity with full control and final decision-making ability:

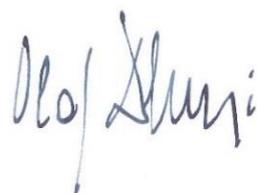
- The operational stakeholders (as defined in regulation (EU) No 409/2013) believe that the designation for RP3 should require the Network Manager to be established as a separate legal entity, able to manage its activities and make decisions and agreements on its own behalf.
- The ATM Professional Staff (PSOs) believe that any discussion around the options for re-design and re-designation of the Network Manager should be supported by a well thought through and non-biased feasibility study and risk assessment. The ATM PSOs believe the time frame to RP3 is not adequate to allow the proper assessment of proposed changes, and the quality of the Network Functions as performed today should not be put at risk under the pressure of timelines set in Performance Schemes.

The ICB also makes recommendations on the terms of the designation, including documentation of the designation process, the tendering process, funding mechanism, designation term, and governance and oversight of the Network Manager.

The ICB recognises the challenge of demonstrating the benefits of a separate legal entity as the Network Manager to Member States, and to this end the paper documents the benefits of this arrangement.

The ICB is committed to providing continued support to the EC to evolve the Network Manager, and would be delighted to discuss further work on the topic, including a joint meeting with Member States to explain the industry's position and demonstrate the benefits. We would be very happy to discuss this idea further if it is of interest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Olaf Dlugi', written in a cursive style.

Olaf Dlugi
Chairman,
Industry Consultation Body

Enc. ICB Position Paper on the short-term steps for the Network Manager