

Performance Review Body Work Programme 2024

December 2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1 The European Commission has designated an independent group of experts as the Performance Review Body (PRB) to assist with the implementation of the Single European Sky (SES) performance and charging scheme.¹
- 2 The PRB consists of nine members, including a Chairperson, appointed by the Commission. The PRB develops impartial, evidence-based recommendations on the performance of air navigation services at Union-wide and local levels as well as of network functions. The work of PRB is supported by validated and pre-analysed data provided by Eurocontrol and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).
- 3 The PRB addresses the key topics related to ANS performance in the following areas:
 - Safety;
 - Environment;
 - Capacity; and
 - Cost-efficiency.
- 4 The Commission Decision establishing the PRB requires the PRB to adopt an Annual Work Programme, which sets out the priorities for the PRB for the year and ensures that the tasks set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317 ('Performance and Charging Regulation') are addressed.² It reflects the PRB's objective to provide independent advice to the Commission on all issues affecting the implementation of the SES performance and charging scheme.
- 5 This Annual Work Programme focuses on how the industry will continue to tackle the challenges faced as traffic recovers towards pre-COVID-19 levels in many regions, whilst remaining disrupted in other areas as a result of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the closure of airspace of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. Several Member States are heavily impacted by the closure of such airspace and are facing traffic flows far different than forecasted, with substantial increases or decreases.
- 6 The performance and charging scheme is also entering the final year of RP3 and the PRB will continue to work with the Commission to support the preparation for RP4. This will include concluding the PRB's advice on Union-wide targets and the consultation and assessment of performance plans in the second half of 2024.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2296 of 16 December 2016 setting up the independent group of experts designated as Performance Review Body of the single European sky.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317 of 11 February 2019 laying down a performance and charging scheme in the single European sky and repealing Implementing Regulations (EU) No 390/2013 and (EU) No 391/2013.

2 WORK PROGRAMME 2024

2.1 Priorities for 2024

- 8 The work programme for 2024 is based on the current priorities of the Commission but is subject to change, as required, in particular regarding the definition of ad hoc activities.
- 9 The PRB activities can be divided into two main categories: Standing items and ad hoc items.

2.2 Standing items

- 10 The standing items include two groups: The PRB monitoring activities that are carried out on an annual basis, and Union-wide target setting and the subsequent assessment of Member States' performance plans.

Annual monitoring activities

- 11 The annual monitoring activities in respect to 2023 will be undertaken in 2024. Preparatory work and monitoring for the operational KPAs (mainly environment and capacity) will commence as soon as the relevant data is available, likely in March 2024. The monitoring of the cost-efficiency and safety KPAs will commence once the data for the year 2023 is available in mid-2024. This will include the monitoring of the performance of:
 - Air navigation services, including investment and capital expenditure, at Union-wide level and at national level, and to ensure that costs related to the U-Space framework are accounted for separately, as they would be required to do if those services were provided by a separate undertaking.
 - The network functions.
- 12 A priority of the PRB in 2024 will be to further improve the monitoring activities and the presentation of the monitoring result, for example:
 - By expanding and refining the digital dashboard that was first published in October 2023;
 - By implementing further improvements to, and publishing of, the traffic light system (first published in 2022).

Target setting and assessment of plans for RP3

- 13 The PRB may also assess any request for a revision of the performance plans that may be submitted during the remainder of RP3 (Article 18 of

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317). However, at this stage, no revisions are anticipated given 2024 is the final year of the reference period.

Preparation for RP4

- 14 In 2024, the PRB will support the preparation for RP4, at the request of the Commission.
- 15 The Commission has requested the PRB to take an advisory role on the steering group of the ongoing study, led by Steer, to identify new monitoring indicators for RP4.
- 16 The PRB's work programme assumes the timings for the preparation of RP4 will remain unchanged from RP3.
- 17 The PRB will also update the template the Member States will use for their RP4 performance plans, and the related guidance material. This guidance material will comprehensively cover the performance and charging Regulation and will include the findings of the work completed by the PRB regarding the allocation of costs relating to meteorological (MET) and search and rescue (SAR) services, and civil military coordination. It will also describe the application of the incentive scheme, the definition of cross-border initiatives, and improve reporting of investments especially with respect to SESAR and the ATM master plan. During the first quarter of 2024, the PRB will provide an update of the guidance material on the appropriate levels of cost of capital for RP4, which will include engaging with stakeholders.

Target setting for RP4

- 18 In the first quarter of 2024, the PRB will provide advice to the Commission on the proposed Union-wide performance targets for RP4. This advice will be based on the target ranges published on 29th September 2023 and an assessment of the responses received in the stakeholder consultation, which included an online survey and a workshop on 8th November 2023.

Assessment of performance plans for RP4

- 19 In October 2024, the PRB will begin to assess the draft performance plans submitted by Member States by the end of September 2024 (at least three months before the start of the new reference period).

Supporting NSAs

- 20 In accordance with Article 2 of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2296, the PRB may assist national supervisory authorities (NSAs) by providing an independent view of performance issues. The PRB will also assist NSAs where Member States are considering the introduction of (financial) incentive schemes relating to environmental performance.
- 21 In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 598/2014, the PRB may support competent authorities on their request to assess the noise situation at airports for which they are responsible.³ The PRB will review such requests and propose actions to support these activities if they arise.
- 22 During 2024, the PRB will consider whether to organise workshops with NSAs to discuss performance monitoring and to answer any technical queries regarding the performance and charging scheme.
- 23 The PRB Chair also plans to discuss with NSAs how to increase collaboration between NSAs and the PRB. The PRB Chair will also commence visits to NSAs in 2024.

Other activities

- 24 For the purpose of monitoring of the overall performance of the European air traffic management (ATM) network, the PRB will continue to coordinate with the air navigation service providers, airport operators, airport coordinators and airspace users as laid out in the PRB stakeholder engagement plan.⁴

2.3 Ad hoc items

- 25 Ad hoc items represent additional activities where the PRB assists the Commission in the implementation of the performance and charging scheme.
- 26 Ad hoc activities include:
- Contributing to stakeholders' meetings and workshops.
 - Participating and presenting specific topics to the Single Sky Committee.

- Participating in meetings of the NSA Coordination Platform (NCP) performance working group.
 - Providing ad hoc support to policy development and in the provision of advice regarding the performance scheme upon request of the Commission.
 - Continue the collaboration with the SESAR Joint Undertaking and SESAR Deployment Manager to assess the contribution of new technology to performance.
- 27 In 2024, the PRB will complete the assessment of the interdependency between the cost-efficiency and capacity KPAs.
- 28 The PRB will also be consulted on the development of the new communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) evolution plan. The PRB will be asked for their views on the plan from the perspective of planned investments and the consistency between the CNS evolution plan and the network and national performance plans.
- 29 The Performance Review Commission (PRC) and PRB chairs will continue to have regular exchanges during 2024 with a view to identifying potential areas of collaboration. The objective is to have another joint session between the PRC and PRB to share information on the two work programmes and to discuss progress on potential joint activities.

³ Regulation (EU) No 598/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a Balanced Approach and repealing Directive 2002/30/EC.

⁴ National Supervisory Authorities and Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Performance Review Body, March 2019.

3 ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

3.1 PRB meetings

30 PRB meetings are held six times a year. These can be complemented by additional ad hoc meetings, as required. Activities of the PRB are governed by the PRB's Rules of Procedure.

31 The indicative dates of the PRB meetings for 2024 are as follows:

PRB meeting 44	6 th – 7 th February
PRB meeting 45	28 th – 29 th March
PRB meeting 46	21 st – 22 nd May
PRB meeting 47	16 th – 17 th July
PRB meeting 48	26 th – 27 th September
PRB meeting 49	19 th – 20 th November

3.2 Sub-group meetings

32 The PRB meetings are currently supported by two sub-groups, each consisting of four PRB members. Sub-group meetings are held when required according to the PRB's activities, and to assist in the development of deliverables of either the standing or ad hoc activities (Annex I).

3.3 Stakeholder engagement

33 The PRB will engage with the industry-wide stakeholders to gain the necessary insight for its activities including NSAs, ANSPs, airspace users, airport representatives, and professional staff organisations.

34 As mentioned in paragraph 22, the PRB will organise a set of interactive workshops with NSAs. Further details on the logistics of such activities will follow in 2024.

35 The details of the stakeholder engagement are specified in the PRB's Stakeholders Engagement Plan.

3.4 Communications

36 Regular updates on PRB activities can be found at: eu-single-sky.transport.ec.europa.eu.

37 The purpose of this webpage is for:

- Member States and NSAs to submit information required by the SES performance and charging scheme through the European Single Sky (ESSKY) platform.
- The PRB to publish its reports, recommendations and communications as well as to handle the stakeholder consultation calendar concerning performance plans and the consultation requirements referred to in Article 24(2) and (3) and in Article 30 of the performance and charging Regulation.
- The wider aviation community to be informed on the SES performance and charging schemes' objectives and achievements.

