

# Performance Review Body Work Programme 2023

December 2022

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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 SES performance and charging scheme.<sup>1</sup>
- 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 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
  - 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.<sup>2</sup> It reflects the PRB's objective to provide independent advice to the Commission on all issues affecting the implementation of the Single European Sky (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 the war of aggression against Ukraine and the closure of airspace of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.
- 6 Several Member States are heavily impacted by the closure of such airspace and are facing traffic flows far different than forecasted, with substantial increases and decreases. Some of them have asked the Commission to revise their approved performance plan. The PRB will work with Member States and the Commission to address any further revisions that may be required in 2023.
- 7 The performance and charging scheme is now entering the fourth and penultimate year of RP3. The PRB will continue to support the Commission to prepare for RP4.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2023

### 2.1 Priorities for 2023

- 9 A main priority in 2023 for the PRB will be to prepare for RP4 and to support the Commission to this end.
- 10 The PRB will also continue the work begun in 2022 to deepen the understanding of interdependencies between the key performance areas (KPA) within the performance and charging scheme.
- 11 The PRB activities can be divided into two main categories: standing items and ad hoc items.

### 2.2 Standing items

- 12 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

- 13 The annual monitoring activities will be undertaken in 2023. Preparatory work and monitoring for the operational KPAs (mainly environment and capacity) will commence as soon as the relevant data is available. The monitoring of the cost-efficiency and safety KPAs will commence once the data for the year 2022 is available in mid-2023. 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 not included within the determined costs of ANSPs.
  - The network functions.
- 14 The PRB will support the Commission to monitor third countries with comprehensive aviation agreements with the EU.<sup>3</sup> Among others, the PRB may review available performance data and charging principles within these states.
- 15 A priority of the PRB in 2023 will be to further improve the monitoring activities and the presentation of the monitoring result, for example by developing improved online dashboards.

#### Assessment of performance plans for RP3

- 16 The PRB will conduct the following activities in 2023:
  - Assist the Commission with the detailed examination of performance targets and the relevant local circumstances under Article 15 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317.
  - Assess any request for a revision of the performance plans that may be submitted during the reference period (Article 18 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317).

#### Target setting for RP3

- 17 In the context of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union-wide performance targets for RP3 were revised in 2021. No further revision of the performance targets is foreseen during RP3.

#### Preparation for RP4

- 18 In 2023, the PRB will support the preparation for RP4, at the request of the Commission.
- 19 The current work programme of the PRB is based on the requirements and timings defined in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317. In accordance with Article 9 (2) the PRB will propose indicative target ranges for the Union-wide performance targets for RP4. This will support the Commission's obligation to publish indicative ranges at least 15 months prior to the start of RP4 (October 2023) and to adopt the Union-wide targets at least seven months before the start of a reference period, which is the end of May 2024.
- 20 The timings associated with setting the target ranges may change should a new Regulation be in place for RP4

#### Supporting NSAs

- 21 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.

<sup>3</sup> This may include all members of the European Economic Area and the signatories of both the European Common Aviation Area and the Mediterranean Agreement.

- 22 In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 598/2014, the PRB can support competent authorities on their request to assess the noise situation at airports for which they are responsible.<sup>4</sup>The PRB will review such requests and propose actions to support these activities if they arise.
- 23 During 2023, the PRB will organise workshops with NSAs to discuss performance monitoring and to answer any technical queries regarding the performance and charging scheme.

### 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.<sup>5</sup>

### 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 are:
- 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 2023, the PRB will complete the assessment of the interdependency between the capacity and environment KPAs.
- 28 Previous work on reviewing the significance of civil military cooperation for the performance scheme and the cost allocation between civil and military providers will also continue in 2023.
- 29 Furthermore, the PRB will begin the following ad-hoc tasks to:
- Improve and refine the traffic light system to assess the environmental performance of air traffic management in the Single European Sky.
  - Assess the interdependency between cost, capacity and environment areas.<sup>6</sup>
  - Analyse the impact and relevance of free route airspace (FRA) and cross-border FRA on performance.
  - Analyse the impact of ATCO licensing on the performance and charging scheme, provided that data is available.
  - Support the assessment of the reporting of MET and SAR costs attributable to civil aviation and their inclusion in the air navigation services cost base as eligible within the Single European Sky framework.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> National Supervisory Authorities and Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Performance Review Body, March 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Safety remains the highest priority for air traffic management, and this study will assume that safety will remain the highest priority for NSAs and ANSPs, which will be monitored under the performance scheme using the Effectiveness of Safety Management indicator and by EASA's assessment of compliance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/373.

<sup>7</sup> MET and SAR costs refer to meteorological and search and rescue costs, respectively.

### 3 ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

#### 3.1 PRB meetings

30 PRB meetings are held approximately 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 2023 are as follows:

<b>PRB meeting 38</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> January-1 <sup>st</sup> February
<b>PRB meeting 39</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>PRB meeting 40</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>PRB meeting 41</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>PRB meeting 42</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>PRB meeting 43</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> November

32 In the course of 2023, and as appropriate, the PRB plans to organise workshops to support its activities.

#### 3.2 Sub-group meetings

33 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 A).

#### 3.3 Stakeholder engagement

34 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.

35 As mentioned in paragraph 23, the PRB will organise a set of interactive workshops with NSAs. Further details on the logistics of such visits will follow in 2023.

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

#### 3.4 Communications

37 Regular updates on PRB activities can be found at: <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/eusinglesky>.

38 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.

