

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the ‘Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on rail transport statistics’

[COM(2017) 353 final — 2017/0146 (COD)]

(2018/C 129/12)

Rapporteur: **Raymond HENCKS**

Consultation	European Commission, 4.8.2017
Legal basis	Articles 19 and 304 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
Section responsible	Section for Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society
Adopted in section	22.11.2017
Adopted at plenary	6.12.2017
Plenary session No	530
Outcome of vote (for/against/abstentions)	158/0/1

1. Summary and conclusions

1.1. The Commission uses rail transport statistics to assess the effects of Community initiatives taken in the railway ambit and to facilitate, if required, the preparation of new initiatives.

1.2. These statistics have been compiled — in part at first and then in greater detail — since 1980⁽¹⁾. In 2003, a new piece of legislation, Regulation EC No 91/2003 (known as the original instrument), introduced substantive amendments and additions. Since then, the Member States have been required to collect and submit annual, quarterly or five-yearly statistics on the carriage of goods and passengers, on the basis of specified indicators.

1.3. In the meantime, that original instrument has been amended and supplemented by Regulations (EC) No 1192/2003, (EC) No 219/2009 and (EU) 2016/2032, the result being that a large number of provisions are now dispersed — some in the original instrument, some in the subsequent amending legislation.

1.4. The Commission has sought merely to effect a ‘codification’, merging the substance of the various earlier regulations unchanged into a harmonious and coherent whole. The only exception is the deletion of paragraph 5 of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 91/2003, which gave the Commission the right to adapt non-essential elements of the regulation’s annexes at its discretion.

1.5. In keeping with the goal of regulatory fitness (REFIT), the EESC supports the Commission’s initiative. It wonders, however, whether the data in question could not be better handled and incorporated into other data on this matter collected by Eurostat.

Brussels, 6 December 2017.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Georges DASSIS

⁽¹⁾ Directive 80/1177/EEC.