



**RULES OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN
THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND THE ADVISORY GROUPS OF ORIENT CORRIDOR
IN HARMONY WITH REGULATION (EU) 913/2010**

I. Basic provisions

1. The Management Board (MB) sets up one Advisory Group (AG) made up of managers and owners of the terminals of Orient Corridor and of their representative organizations.
2. The MB sets up one further AG made up of railway undertakings (RUs) interested in the use of Orient Corridor and of their representative organizations.
3. Participation in the AGs is on a voluntary basis.
4. The AGs may issue an opinion on any proposal by the MB which has direct consequences for AG members. The AGs may also issue own-initiative opinions. The MB shall take any of the opinions of the AGs into account.
5. The MB is responsible for organization and financing of three regular AG meetings / year / AG and of consultation between MB and AGs.
6. Internal meetings of AGs are financed by AG members themselves. Members of the AG will not be reimbursed by the corridor organization for their expenses.
7. The MB defines only the rules applicable between MB and AGs, but MB does not define the process of communication and position-making inside the AGs.

II. Formulation and representation of the positions of the AGs

8. Every AG elects its own representative for a defined time period, and informs the Secretariat of Orient Corridor of the name and contact details of the AG representative. The representative of the AG collects the opinions of AG member companies, and communicates the comprehensive position of the AG to the MB.
9. A sole position of the AG shall be communicated to the MB, and not individual positions of AG members. Nevertheless, the position of the AG may include majority and minority opinions, if applicable.

10. Inside the AG every country has a coordinator, pulling together the AG members inside its country, and communicating to the representative of the AG.
11. The possibility for joining and leaving both AGs shall be always open. Secretariat of Orient Corridor has to be informed of names and contact details of newly joined and/or leaving AG members.

III. Procedure of consultation between MB and AGs

12. The MB communicates with the representatives of the AGs only, i.e. one entity from AG of RUs and one entity from AG of Terminals.
13. The sole channel of communication with AGs on behalf of MB is the Secretariat of Orient Corridor, whose contact details are to be found on the website of the corridor. Therefore, the AG should address the Secretariat in case of sending the position of the AG, asking for clarifications, etc.
14. MB Secretariat circulates documents for consultation by sending them to every AG member by e-mail correspondence, but MB Secretariat receives the comprehensive AG position only from the representative of the AG, and not individual opinions from AG members.
15. The language of communication between MB and AGs is English.
16. Country coordinators of the AG may contact the MB member Infrastructure Manager company of their country for consultation.
17. Regular meetings of AGs are held three times a year. Regular meetings are organized by the MB Secretariat. MB members of Orient Corridor and its experts may take part in the AG meetings.

IV. Utilization of AGs' opinions

18. As a basic rule, MB takes every possible opinion of AGs into account.
19. If MB cannot take some AG opinion into account, MB gives justification to AG, and continues consultation with AG until agreement is reached.
20. If agreement between MB and AG position cannot be reached, parties can refer the matter to the Executive Board to act as mediator.