



European Intermodal Research Advisory Council

EUROPEAN INTERMODAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL (EIRAC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

FINAL VERSION

APPROVED BY THE EIRAC PLENARY ON 06/04/2009

1. BACKGROUND

On 3 May 2005, more than 50 CEOs and Managing Directors from large Intermodal businesses launched the European Intermodal Research Advisory Council (EIRAC). EIRAC agreed that a Strategic Intermodal Research Agenda 2020 (SIRA) for Intermodal Transport and its Implementation Plan (IP) were needed, as instruments to direct European and national resources to targeted research. The SIRA was published on 14 December 2005, whilst the IP was published on 12 December 2006.

EIRAC has been very successful in its first years of activity and has been acknowledged by the European Commission as a reliable partner and a major source of expertise. The value of the EIRAC SIRA and IP has been recognised by different Directorates General of the European Commission, such as DG TREN, and DG RTD, and it is considered a key source of valuable input to the work programmes of FP7.

2. MISSION AND GOALS

EIRAC's primary mission is to foster innovation and change in Intermodal Transport and Logistics in order to:

Enable the growth of the European Economy through competitive and sustainable logistics

EIRAC members are developing a Joint Research Strategy to influence the relevant European stakeholders in the planning and implementation of research and innovation programmes. The Research Strategy is addressed to policymakers in the intermodal transport sector and to users/operators of intermodal transport.

The EIRAC work is scheduled through until the end of 2010 and is geared towards the following objectives:

- Establishing a common strategy in relation to the changes necessary to make logistics more sustainable, safer, more secure and smarter;
- Creating an open European network of public and private key players,
- Fostering the participation of industrial SMEs in innovating and changing their mindset, perhaps even participating in research projects;
- Stimulating the application of the Research Strategy to national and international programmes of research;
- Optimising the use of public funding in order to stimulate the main stakeholders into investing in research and innovation activities;

- Managing the results of research, in order to improve potential market uptake;
- Communicating in harmony with the European Intermodal Association as the established voice representing the interests of the intermodal sector;
- Preparing for continuation after 2010.

3. MEMBERSHIP

EIRAC consists of representatives of the stakeholders of the European intermodal community. Ideally, EIRAC is a high-level network of 50 participants, with a balanced selection of members from among the industries listed below:

- Intermodal Operators
- Private Terminal Operators
- Shippers
- Logistics service providers
- Freight Villages/ European Logistic Hotspots
- Trucking / Haulage Companies
- Railway Undertakings
- Shipping lines/ Short Sea Operators
- Inland Waterway Operators and Organisation
- Port Authorities
- Handling manufacturers and suppliers
- ICT Suppliers
- Academics¹

Since EIRAC is an open 'shop' for candidate members, the following procedure will be applied to allow new members to join:

- A) Candidate member communicates intention to become a member via the Secretariat. The Membership Application Template has to be filled in by the candidate member. After receipt by the secretariat the Task Force will be informed
- B) Candidate member will be informed that its application will be discussed by Task Force members

¹ The number of academic representatives is limited to 4

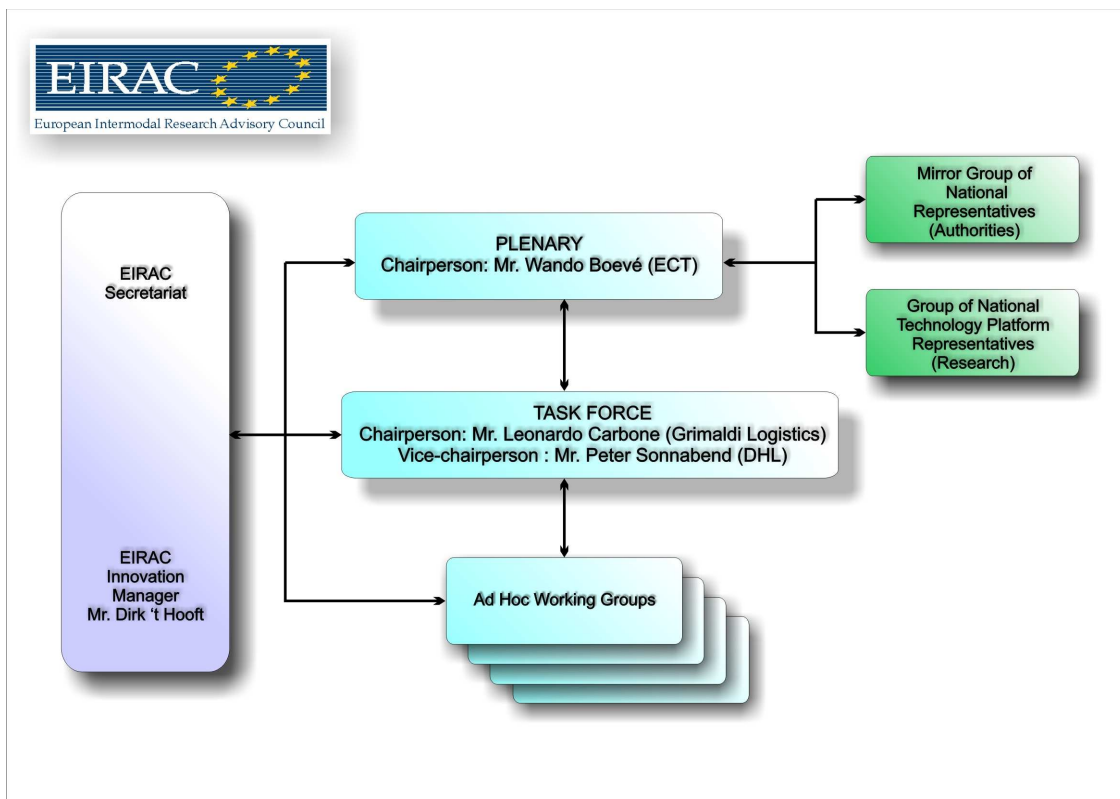
- C) After approval by the Task Force, the Secretariat will send an official acceptance to the candidate member.

Members of EIRAC are encouraged to involve interested parties from the above-mentioned groups.

4. PLENARY

Plenary Members are Senior Leaders of Industry, representing the stakeholders, be it from the market or public (Mirror Group). They are personally appointed for a 2-year term and may be reappointed. Plenary Meetings take place at least 2 times a year. Plenary Members serve in a personal capacity; the appointment of substitutes to the Plenary is not allowed, except in the case of urgent reasons. Members of the Plenary are not entitled to remuneration for their work in the EIRAC.

The Plenary is headed by the Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, who are appointed by the Plenary Members. The Chairpersons serve for a 2-year period and may be reappointed.



EIRAC Organisation Chart.

The various groups composing the EIRAC are described in the following paragraphs.

5. TASK FORCE

The Task Force² (TF) is a group derived from the Plenary that discusses and decides on new ventures and projects. In addition to that, the TF responds to strategic questions from the EC, the market and other sources.

The Task Force fulfils the executive function for the EIRAC.

The TF meets as required for coordination and additional discussions and is headed by appointed Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They work closely together with the Innovation Manager.

TF meetings are prepared by the Secretariat in line with the indications from the Chairpersons and the Innovation Manager

The Members of the Task Force are not entitled to remuneration for their work in the EIRAC.

The Task Force identifies specific subjects to be further developed by ad hoc Working Groups. The Working Groups may consist of Plenary Members or one or more specialists to carry out the work.

6. THE INNOVATION MANAGER

The general role of the Innovation Manager is to stimulate and foster discussion among EIRAC members, helping them to identify the subjects with the highest potential for change, encouraging the market-uptake of innovation. The Innovation Manager reports to the Task Force.

The Innovation Manager keeps the EC authorities informed of EIRAC results, supported by the EIA.

The Innovation Manager assists ad hoc Working Groups and Task Force Members in monitoring the potential implementation and market up-take of solutions and innovation.

The Innovation Manager cooperates with EIRAC members to push forward the proposed innovation and stimulate their involvement in projects.

The Innovation Manager contributes to the dissemination of EIRAC results and activities, presenting them during selected high-level conferences and events.

The Innovation Manager was appointed on a part-time basis for 26 months, with effect from 1 October 2008.

² The Task force replaces the Support Group, which was composed of the Leaders of the former Working Groups (see EIRAC ToR 03/05/2005).

7. SECRETARIAT

A secretariat is available to assist EIRAC in fulfilling its goals and mission. The secretariat makes sure that communication activities both (1) internally within the EIRAC group and (2) externally to disseminate information to relevant parties are guaranteed and facilitated, and (3) it manages and organizes the Plenary meetings of the EIRAC group.

The Secretariat provides general support to the Chairpersons, the Task Force and the Innovation Manager.

A website dedicated to EIRAC (www.eirac.eu) is maintained by the EIRAC secretariat. It gives information about objectives, participants, possibilities for cooperation, membership, projects, results, news and events to EIRAC members and other parties.

8. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE EIRAC AND EXTERNAL BODIES

In this section, the relationships between the EIRAC and external bodies, i.e., the Mirror Group of National Representatives, the Group of National Technology Platform representatives and the EIA are defined.

8.1 MIRROR GROUP OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Ideally, the Mirror Group is composed of one representative per Member and Accession State. Mirror Group representatives are appointed through their Embassies or Ministries of either Research and Innovation, or Transport and Communication.

Experts of this group promote the endorsement of the SIRA in each Member State. More precisely, the role of the Mirror Group representatives is:

- to debate the Strategic Intermodal Research Agenda in the light of their national RTD and investment programmes;
- to ensure the coordination of action throughout the EU;
- to ensure that EIRAC promotion activities are repeated in each of the Member States;
- to receive national feedback on the SIRA.

The Mirror Group supports the preparation and execution of the Road-Show to present the achievements and projects in the various Ministries.

The Mirror Group operates in direct cooperation with the EIRAC Plenary; therefore, its meetings are organized on the same days as Plenary meetings.

8.2 GROUP OF NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM REPRESENTATIVES

This Group is composed of Representatives of National Technology Platforms (TP) for Intermodality and Logistics. The purpose of this Group is to ensure a permanent and effective link between the EIRAC and the National TPs, with the goal of:

- Enhancing the coherence between the main research topics identified at European and national level;
- Facilitating the implementation of research topics identified by EIRAC at national and sector level (also cooperating in the organization of the Road-Show);
- Stimulating the creation of National Technology Platforms for Intermodality where not yet present.

The Group operates in direct cooperation with the EIRAC Plenary; therefore, its meetings are organized in the same days as Plenary meetings.

9. THE EUROPEAN INTERMODAL ASSOCIATION

Whereas EIRAC as a project is focused on research, innovation and 'change' measures to enable these activities, the EIA is an Association defending the long-term sustainable intermodal policies and business interests of its members in relation to the EU authorities and the market.

The tasks of the EIA within EIRAC are described and set out in the EIRAC 'Implementation Plan' issued in 2006. Generally, its aim is to stimulate co-modality between the different modes as the logistics chain still has many shortcomings in infrastructure, technical, organisational and legal terms. EIA works in close cooperation with EU institutions and is recognized as a non-governmental organization both by United Nations (UN) and European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT).

EIRAC will respect the role of EIA on non-research topics. It is neither in the aims, nor in the scope of EIRAC to endanger the position of EIA or to compete against it. In the event of requests received by the EIRAC addressing a non-research matter (i.e., policy, regulatory, non-research related in general), communication will be handled in synergy with the EIA, as a partner of the EIRAC II CSA consortium and acknowledged body representing the interests of the intermodal sector.