

Paris 22 January 2013

RFF and Europorte sign first framework agreement

Reseau Ferré de France (RFF), and Europorte, have signed an historic framework agreement defining the infrastructure capacity required for the activities of the railway operator. They have also signed a new agreement relating to the quality of train paths.

This initial framework agreement signed with Europorte France relates to the timetable for services in 2014 and 2015. It guarantees infrastructure capacity for Europorte, the rail freight subsidiary of the Eurotunnel Group, ahead of the planned services¹ on the French railway infrastructure. The characteristics of the infrastructure capacity covered by the framework agreement (the number of paths perday, routes, their journey time, including margins, their position in the timetable at specified times...) are described in detail and are set out for the duration of the agreement. RFF can thus guarantee Europorte that there will be no maintenance work planned for the lines in question when they are required for traffic. This initial framework agreement relates to a first route in the East of France.

The framework agreement enables RFF to improve planning for paths that the railway operator sees as priorities for the development of its activity in 2014 and 2015: in this way, it builds a number of pre-established paths into the timetable for the years under consideration. The paths attributed on this basis each year can be moved within the timetable, provided they remain in accordance with the commitments agreed to between the two parties. This enables RFF to optimize the usage of the national railway network.

The framework agreement has been verified by the authority for rail regulation in France, the ARAF, to ensure that it does not over ride network capacity. A favourable opinion was obtained on 10 October 2012.

In order to improve the quality of its railway offering, RFF, which manages the national rail network in France, is developing a series of contracts with its customers. Following agreements on the quality of paths (Accords Qualité de Service, AQS), RFF is now developing framework agreements which define the infrastructure capacity which they can commit to requiring in the April of the year proceeding the contract, and which RFF commits to provide by September of the same year for the duration of a multi-year agreement.

At the same time, RFF and Europorte have renewed their agreement on path quality for the year 2013. RFF has committed to attribute paths on the network to Europorte France for 2013, enabling the railway operator to benefit from greater transparency and stability. The difference with this agreement is that RFF commits to lifting uncertainties on specified paths at least two months before the planned date of service.

Pascal Sainson, Chairman of Europorte, stated: *"I am delighted with this framework agreement with RFF, which will help us further improve the high level of service we offer and achieve the punctuality we seek. Europorte is working with its partners to ensure that its customers receive a safe and reliable service".*

¹ The agreement does not cover either the operational conditions for use of the infrastructure, or the use of the path-days once they have been attributed



Matthieu Chabanel, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of RFF, stated: *“Contractualising our relationships with the railway operators is an essential step in the contract signed between the French government and RFF on 3 November 2008”.*

About RFF:

Réseau Ferré de France develops, modernises and commercialises access to the French railway infrastructure on a coordinated regional, national and European level.

The second largest public investor in France, RFF has 1500 staff and had revenues of almost €5 Billion in 2011. RFF is implementing an unprecedented €13 billion modernisation plan for the network over the period from 2008 to 2015. RFF is developing the new lines in accordance with the terms of the French government's environmental policy (the Grenelle de l'Environnement).

With 30,000km of track under management, RFF provides its customers, the freight and passenger railway operators with equal access to the high performance French railway infrastructure.

Visit our website: www.rff.fr

For photos and videos: www.mediatheque-rff.fr



Latest: Réseau Ferré de France has opened a Twitter account for journalists and media outlets, giving more access to information and a higher degree of reactivity. Follow us and access all the corporate news from RFF at @RFF_presse.

About Europorte :

The first private French rail operator to have obtained, in 2004, a licence authorising the development of rail services throughout the European Union, this rail freight subsidiary of the Eurotunnel Group is the 3rd largest operator across the French and British rail networks. With more than 1,000 employees in France, Europorte provides tailor-made solutions for industrial operators, offering an integrated range of services covering all freight markets: from national and international haulage to logistics, from local services to management of branch lines, including the activities of a local railway operator.

www.europorte.com