



Press release

Bonn, 27 May 2022

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Dr Annegret Groebel and Prof. Karsten Otte new chair and vice-chair of the Independent Regulators' Group - Rail (IRG-Rail) for 2023

At its ordinary Plenary Assembly on 24 and 25 May 2022, the delegates of the rail regulatory authority members of IRG-Rail elected the Bundesnetzagentur as vice-chair of IRG-Rail for 2022 and as chair of IRG-Rail for 2023.

„We are delighted at the trust our European colleagues have placed in us so that we may once again support the work of IRG-Rail by bringing to bear our many years of experience in international matters and in rail regulation and drive the work of IRG-RAIL forward,“ said Dr Annegret Groebel, Head of International/Post Regulation, and Prof. Karsten Otte, Head of Rail Regulation.

In six working groups and various task forces, IRG-Rail prepares position papers on current developments in the rail sector. These are then approved by the IRG-Rail members at the plenary assembly, which is held twice a year. The chair and vice-chair are appointed for a one-year term. Until their term starts, Dr Groebel and Prof. Otte will support the current chair, Nikola Popvic from the Croatian regulatory authority Hakom, in his work, in particular in the preparatory work for the 2023 work programme.

In 2023 ground-breaking changes are expected to the European regulatory framework for capacity allocation in train services as a significant driver towards carbon-light mobility. To make optimum use of scarce infrastructure resources, discussions have been taking place for several years on new models for allocating capacity, such as "Deutschland Takt" and "Time Tabling Redesign" or "Smart Capacity Management". Following extensive preparations and evaluations by the European Commission, there will be discussions in 2023 on targeted legislative changes. This is where IRG-Rail will be delighted to contribute its expertise.

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IRG-Rail is a network of 31 independent rail regulatory authorities in Europe. Its aim is to support European cooperation between authorities as well as to promote the European railway market. More information on iRG-Rail can be found at www.irg-rail.eu.

The Bundesnetzagentur für Elektrizität, Gas, Telekommunikation, Post und Eisenbahnen is an independent higher federal authority with its main office in Bonn and is under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK). Some of its areas of activity fall under the substantive supervision of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV).