

Welcome to EBU Focus

This newsletter is published every three months to take an in-depth look at an issue of importance to our community. It is published in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#) and is [also available as a word document](#). It is produced and translated thanks to the financial support of the European Commission. We hope you enjoy reading it, and we welcome your comments and feedback.

Table of Contents

- The Rail Passenger Rights Regulation and its ongoing revision
- Travelling by train in the Czech Republic
- Rail transport and the visually impaired in the UK
- Accessibility in trains and railway stations in France

[The Rail Passenger Rights Regulation and its ongoing revision](#)

The Regulation (EC) N°1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligation brought a set of common minimal rules for all persons travelling by train in Europe. It includes a specific chapter on the rights of passengers with disabilities and passengers with reduced mobility.

In its 2013 report on the application of the Regulation, the European Commission highlighted certain problematic areas which were confirmed by an impact assessment in 2016/2017. In 2017, the Commission tabled a proposal (COM/2017/0548 final - 2017/0237 (COD)) for a modernised regulation, with the aim namely to significantly improve the rights of passengers with disabilities or reduced mobility.

This article describes the essential elements of the existing Regulation and of its proposed recast, from the point of view of visually impaired persons (hereafter "VIPs").

[Travelling by train in the Czech Republic](#)

In the Czech Republic there are many railway operators, ranging from local ones to three operating main lines, including the biggest one, national Czech Railways. While railway operators run trains, the rail

transport infrastructure such as tracks and stations is owned and run by state.

Rail transport and the visually impaired in the UK

In the U.K. we have over two million people who are blind and partially sighted. Many have additional disabilities, such as diabetes and arthritis. These disabilities can cause loss of feeling in the feet and hands. The majority of these people will have to rely on public transport throughout their lives.

Accessibility in trains and railway stations in France

First of all I would like to congratulate the SNCF for creating accessibility commissions and organising monthly meetings of all the organisations for disabled people. This allows transport technicians to understand our demands and to ask us directly about our needs.

EBU Central Office

6 rue Gager-Gabillot, 75015 Paris, France

Tel: +33 1 47 05 38 20

E-mail: ebu@euroblind.org