

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2018/1795**of 20 November 2018****laying down procedure and criteria for the application of the economic equilibrium test pursuant to Article 11 of Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive 2012/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 November 2012 establishing a single European railway area ⁽¹⁾, and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 11(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 2012/34/EU as amended by Directive (EU) 2016/2370 ⁽²⁾ has opened up the market for domestic rail passenger services with a view to completing the single European railway area. This may have implications for the organisation and financing of rail passenger services provided under a public service contract. Member States may introduce in their legislation the possibility to deny access to the infrastructure where the economic equilibrium of such public service contracts would be compromised by new open access rail passenger services.
- (2) On the other hand, such services, depending on their specific features, such as quality characteristics, timing, destinations served and prospective customers targeted, may not be in head-on competition with public services, and thus cause only limited impact on the economic equilibrium of a public service contract. Furthermore, there may be positive network effects for public service operators, net benefits to passengers or wider social benefits that should be taken into account.
- (3) It is therefore necessary to balance the legitimate interests of operators performing a public service contract and competent authorities, on the one hand, with the overarching objectives of completing the single European railway area and reaping its wider social benefits, on the other hand. The economic equilibrium test should achieve a balance between those competing interests.
- (4) Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾ lays down that, as a reward for discharging public service obligations in the provision of rail passenger services, operators may be granted financial compensation or exclusive rights, or both. However, the grant of exclusive rights to railway operators should not result in the foreclosure of domestic rail passenger markets.
- (5) Such exclusive rights should not preclude the right of access of other railway undertakings, unless the economic equilibrium test shows that, taking into account the value of the exclusive rights, the new rail passenger service would have a substantial negative impact on the profitability of services operated under the public service contract or the net cost of their provision for the competent authority, or both, depending on risk-sharing arrangements stipulated in the public service contract.
- (6) An economic equilibrium test should be requested only in respect of passenger rail services which are not provided under a public service contract and which are either entirely new or entail a substantial modification of an existing service. This notion encompasses also commercial services provided by the same operator that carries out the public service contract.
- (7) It should be for the regulatory body to assess whether a proposed modification of a rail passenger service should be considered substantial. An increase in frequencies or number of stops could be considered a substantial modification. A variation in prices should not be considered a substantial modification, unless it is inconsistent with normal market behaviour, and where relevant, with the business plan submitted to the regulatory body at the time the previous economic equilibrium test was carried out.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 343, 14.12.2012, p. 32.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2016/2370 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 amending Directive 2012/34/EU as regards the opening of the market for domestic passenger transport services by rail and the governance of the railway infrastructure (OJ L 352, 23.12.2016, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 1191/69 and 1107/70 (OJ L 315, 3.12.2007, p. 1).

- (8) The regulatory body's decision should include an assessment of net benefits to customers arising from the new rail passenger service in the short and medium term, and should take into account the technical information provided by the infrastructure manager on relevant infrastructure requirements and on expected impacts on network performance and on optimal capacity utilisation by all applicants.
- (9) The regulatory body should be entitled both to assess the likely impact of the new passenger service, and to assess whether such impact would be substantial and thus compromise the economic equilibrium of the existing public service contract.
- (10) In order to avoid the interruption of a new rail passenger service that has already started, and to give legal certainty to this new service about its possibility to operate, the period during which an economic equilibrium test can be requested should be limited and linked to the time of the applicant's notification of its interest in operating a new rail passenger service.
- (11) To be admissible, a request for an economic equilibrium test should include substantiation that the economic equilibrium of the public service contract would be compromised by the proposed new service.
- (12) In order to ensure legal certainty for all parties involved and to enable the infrastructure manager to process requests for capacity according to the procedure set out in Section 3 of Chapter IV of Directive 2012/34/EU, the regulatory body should take a decision on economic equilibrium within a pre-determined time frame, and in any event before the deadline for receipt of requests of capacity, set by the infrastructure manager in accordance with point 3 of Annex VII to Directive 2012/34/EU.
- (13) However, if at the time the applicant's notification is received, a public service contract is in the process of being competitively tendered and an economic equilibrium test has been requested, the regulatory body may decide to suspend consideration of the application for the new rail passenger service for a limited period of time pending the award of the new public service contract. The suspension should last for no longer than 12 months from the receipt of the applicant's notification or until the tender process has concluded, whichever is sooner.

These specific provisions are without prejudice to the application of this regulation to a public service contract which is on-going at the time the applicant's notification is received. In these circumstances, and where the economic equilibrium test on the existing public service contract demonstrates that access can be granted, such access should be time-limited until the expiry of the existing public service contract.

- (14) The economic equilibrium of a public service contract should be regarded as compromised if the proposed new service would have a substantial negative impact on the level of profit for the public service operator and/or their operation would imply a substantial increase in net cost for the competent authority.
- (15) When assessing whether an impact is substantial, the regulatory body should take into account criteria such as whether the new service would jeopardise the viability and endanger the continuity of the public service, either because performance of the public contract would not be economically sustainable for the public service operator, or because it would entail a substantial increase in net cost for the competent authority.
- (16) Beyond the economic analysis, the regulatory body should also assess and take into account the net benefits to customers in the short and medium term and any impacts in network performance and capacity use. The regulatory body should take into account the technical information provided by the infrastructure manager on relevant infrastructure requirements, on expected impacts on network performance and on optimal capacity utilisation by all applicants.
- (17) The economic analysis should focus on the impact of the proposed new service on the public service contract as a whole, including the services specifically affected, for its entire time-scale, taking into account the value of any existing exclusive rights that may have been granted. No predefined quantified threshold regarding the damage should be applied strictly or in isolation, and no such thresholds should be set in national legislation. The assessment should be based on an objective methodology adopted by the regulatory body having regard to the specificities of rail transport in the Member State concerned.
- (18) When the regulatory body comes to the conclusion that the new rail passenger service would compromise the economic equilibrium of the public service contract, in its decision it should indicate, if relevant, possible changes to the new rail passenger service which would enable access to be granted. The regulatory body may issue

recommendations to the competent authority as regards other possible conditions that would enable access to be granted, in particular in the light of its analysis of net benefits to customers arising from the new rail passenger service.

- (19) If the application for access concerns a new rail passenger service as defined in Article 3(36) of Directive 2012/34/EU and the objective economic analysis of the regulatory body shows that the new passenger service would have a substantial negative impact on the economic equilibrium of a public service contract, the regulatory body should determine conditions which would enable access to be granted in accordance with Article 11a of Directive 2012/34/EU.
- (20) In all its activities related to the economic equilibrium test, the regulatory body should not disclose confidential or commercially sensitive information received from the parties. In particular, it should redact such information from the decision to be published. All decisions of regulatory bodies, including those on the confidential nature of the information received, are subject to judicial review according to Article 56(10) of Directive 2012/34/EU.
- (21) Where the economic equilibrium test is carried out in respect of a new international passenger service, without prejudice to the principle of independence of regulatory bodies in decision-making referred to in Article 55(1) of Directive 2012/34/EU, the regulatory bodies concerned should exchange information and cooperate to achieve a reasonable resolution of the matter.
- (22) Regulatory bodies should exchange best practices in applying the economic equilibrium test with a view to adapting their methodology over time and developing a consistent methodology across Member States, which may be covered by Article 57(8) of Directive 2012/34/EU.
- (23) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 869/2014⁽¹⁾ establishes criteria and procedures for the application of the principal purpose test and the economic equilibrium test in respect of new international rail passenger services. However, with the opening of the market for domestic rail passenger services, the principal purpose test has become obsolete and the same criteria and procedures should apply to all new rail passenger services, regardless of whether they are domestic or international. Implementing Regulation (EU) No 869/2014 should therefore be repealed.
- (24) Since Articles 10 and 11(1) of Directive 2012/34/EU apply from 1 January 2019 but are not applicable to train services which start to run before 12 December 2020, there is a need to continue applying Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 869/2014 after 1 January 2019, but only for new rail passenger services intended to start before 12 December 2020. The application of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 869/2014 should be conditional on applicants' notifications being submitted within a time-frame that allows reasonable time for completion of the authorisation and scheduling process so that the services can actually start to run before 12 December 2020.
- (25) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 62(1) of Directive 2012/34/EU,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation sets out the details of the procedure and criteria to be followed when determining whether the economic equilibrium of a public service contract for rail transport would be compromised by a new rail passenger service.

Article 2

Scope

This Regulation applies to situations where a Member State has decided to limit the right of access referred to in Article 10(2) Directive 2012/34/EU for new rail passenger services between a given place of departure and a given destination when one or more public service contracts cover the same route or an alternative route, as provided for in Article 11(1) of that Directive.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 869/2014 of 11 August 2014 on new rail passenger services (OJ L 239, 12.8.2014, p. 1).

*Article 3***Definitions**

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) 'new rail passenger service' means a rail passenger service designed to be operated as a regular time-tabled service, that is either entirely new, or that implies a substantial modification of an existing rail passenger service, in particular in terms of increased frequencies of services or increased number of stops, and which is not provided under a public service contract;
- (2) 'economic equilibrium test' means the assessment process described in Article 11(1) to (4) and Article 11a of Directive 2012/34/EU and further described in Article 10 and carried out by a regulatory body at the request of one of the entities referred to in Article 11(2) of Directive 2012/34/EU in order to determine whether the economic equilibrium of a public service contract would be compromised by the proposed new rail passenger service;
- (3) 'public service contract' means a public service contract as defined in point (i) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 in the area of rail transport;
- (4) 'competent authority' means a competent authority as defined in point (b) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007;
- (5) 'net financial impact' means the impact of the new rail passenger service on the net balance of costs and revenues arising from the discharge of the public service obligations stipulated in a public service contract, which includes reasonable profit;
- (6) 'exclusive right' means a right as defined in point (f) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007.

*Article 4***Notification of a planned new rail passenger service**

1. The applicant shall notify the infrastructure managers and the regulatory bodies concerned of its intention to operate a new rail passenger service in accordance with the deadline set in Article 38(4) of Directive 2012/34/EU.
2. Regulatory bodies shall develop and publish on their website a standard notification form to be completed and submitted by the applicant, which shall be limited to the following information:
 - (a) the applicant's name, address, legal entity, registration number (if appropriate);
 - (b) contact data of the person responsible for queries;
 - (c) data of licence and safety certificate of the applicant or indication of the stage of the procedure to obtain them;
 - (d) detailed route indicating location of departure and destination stations as well as all intermediate stops;
 - (e) planned starting date for the operation of the proposed new rail passenger service;
 - (f) indicative timing, frequency and capacity of the proposed new rail passenger service, including proposed departure times, arrival times and connections as well as any deviations in frequency or in stops from the standard timetable, in each direction;
 - (g) indicative information on the rolling stock the applicant plans to use.
3. The information regarding the planned operation of the new rail passenger service shall cover at least the first three years and, as far as possible, the first five years of operation. The regulatory body may however agree to a shorter period.
4. The regulatory body shall publish on its website the standard notification form submitted by the applicant and shall notify the following without undue delay and at the latest within 10 days of receiving a complete notification form:
 - (a) any competent authority that has awarded a public service contract for a rail passenger service on that route or an alternative route within the meaning of Directive 2012/34/EU;
 - (b) any other interested competent authority with the right to limit access under Article 11 of Directive 2012/34/EU;
 - (c) any railway undertaking operating services under public service contract on the route of the new rail passenger service or an alternative route.

5. All information provided by the applicant via the standard notification form and any supporting documents shall be sent to the regulatory bodies and infrastructure managers in electronic form. However, the regulatory body may, in duly justified cases, accept that documents be submitted in paper format.

6. If the notification is incomplete, the regulatory body shall inform the applicant that incomplete requests will not be considered and shall give the applicant the possibility to complete its request within a reasonable time not exceeding ten working days.

Article 5

Deadline for requesting the economic equilibrium test

1. Any request for an economic equilibrium test shall be made to the regulatory body by the entities referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 11(2) of Directive 2012/34/EU within the deadline set out in that provision.

2. Where, at the time of receipt of the applicant's notification referred to in Article 4 a public service contract covering the same route or an alternative route is being competitively tendered and the deadline for submitting bids to the competent authority has expired, an economic equilibrium test may be requested within the deadline referred to in paragraph 1 by the entities referred to in Article 11(2) of Directive 2012/34/EU in respect of the future public service contract.

This is without prejudice to the application of this regulation to a public service contract which is on-going at the time of the applicant's notification.

3. If no request for an economic equilibrium test is made within the deadline referred to in paragraph 1, the regulatory body shall inform the applicant and the infrastructure manager without delay. The infrastructure manager shall process the access request in accordance with Section 3 of Chapter IV of Directive 2012/34/EU.

Article 6

Public service contracts with exclusive rights

Where a competent authority has granted exclusive rights to the railway undertaking performing a public service contract in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007, the existence of such rights shall not preclude access being granted to an applicant for the purpose of operating a new rail passenger service, provided that access would not compromise the economic equilibrium of the public service contract.

In carrying out the test pursuant to Article 10, the regulatory body shall give due consideration to the value of any such exclusive rights.

Article 7

Information requirements for the economic equilibrium test

1. The entity requesting the economic equilibrium test shall provide the following information:

- (a) the requesting entity's name, address, legal entity, registration number (if appropriate);
- (b) contact information of the person responsible for queries;
- (c) substantiation that the economic equilibrium of the contract risks being compromised by the new rail passenger service;
- (d) if the requesting entity is a competent authority or the railway undertaking performing the public service contract, a copy of the public service contract.

2. The regulatory body may request any necessary information, including, as the case may be:

- (a) from the competent authority:
 - (1) relevant traffic, demand and revenue forecasts, including forecast methodology,
 - (2) where appropriate, the methodology and data used to calculate the net financial effect pursuant to Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 and the Annex to that Regulation;

- (b) from the railway undertaking performing the public service contract:
- (1) copy of the public service contract, if not provided under point (d) of paragraph 1,
 - (2) the undertaking's business plan for the route covered by the public service contract or an alternative route,
 - (3) relevant traffic, demand and revenue forecasts, including forecast methodology,
 - (4) information on revenues and profit margins gained by the undertaking on the route covered by the public service contract or an alternative route,
 - (5) timetable information for the services, including departure times, intermediate stops, arrival times and connections,
 - (6) estimated elasticities of the services (e.g. price elasticity, elasticity with respect to quality characteristics of the services),
 - (7) cost of capital and operating costs for services provided under the public service contract, as well as variations in costs and demand induced by the new rail passenger service;
- (c) from the applicant, information concerning its plans for operating the new rail passenger service, including:
- (1) business plan,
 - (2) forecast of passenger traffic and revenues, including forecast methodology,
 - (3) pricing strategies,
 - (4) ticketing arrangements,
 - (5) rolling stock specifications (e.g. load factor, number of seats, vehicle configuration),
 - (6) marketing strategy;
- (d) from the infrastructure manager:
- (1) information regarding the relevant lines or sections, in order to ensure that the new rail passenger service can be run on the infrastructure concerned,
 - (2) information on potential performance and resilience impacts of the proposed new rail passenger service,
 - (3) assessment of impacts on capacity use,
 - (4) plans for developing infrastructure as regards routes covered by the proposed new rail passenger service, including an indication of the time when any such plans will be implemented,
 - (5) information on relevant framework agreements concluded or under discussion, in particular with the undertaking performing the public service contract.

The information obligations of the infrastructure manager set out in point (d) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall be without prejudice to its obligations under the allocation procedure referred to in Section 3 of Chapter IV of Directive 2012/34/EU.

3. All information shall be sent to the regulatory body in electronic form. The regulatory body may, however, in duly justified cases, accept that documents be submitted in paper format.

Article 8

Confidentiality

1. The regulatory body shall not disclose commercially sensitive information received from the parties in connection with the economic equilibrium test.

2. The entity requesting the economic equilibrium test and the applicant shall substantiate any proposed non-disclosure of commercially sensitive information at the time the information is provided to the regulatory body. Such information may include, in particular, technical or financial information relating to an undertaking's know-how, business plan, cost structures, marketing and pricing strategies, supply sources and market shares. The regulatory body shall redact any commercially sensitive information from its decision before its notification and publication in accordance with Article 11(5). Information included in the standard notification form, as specified in Article 4(2), shall not be considered commercially sensitive.

3. If the regulatory body finds that the reasons for non-disclosure provided under paragraph 2 cannot be accepted, that decision shall be communicated and justified in writing to the party requesting confidentiality, at the latest two weeks before adoption of the decision referred to in Article 11(1).

4. The regulatory body's decision on confidentiality shall be subject to judicial review according to Article 56(10) of Directive 2012/34/EU. The regulatory body shall not disclose the disputed information until the national court has issued a ruling on confidentiality.

Article 9

Procedure for the economic equilibrium test

1. The regulatory body may request the entity requesting the economic equilibrium test to provide it with any additional information it deems necessary in accordance with Article 7(2) within one month of receiving the request. The requesting entity shall provide such information within a reasonable deadline set by the regulatory body. The regulatory body may request further information if it considers that the additional information received is not sufficient.

2. In the event that six weeks before the final date for receipt of requests for capacity set in accordance with point 3 of Annex VII to Directive 2012/34/EU the information provided by the requesting entity is still incomplete, the regulatory body shall perform the test on the basis of available information. If, however, the regulatory body considers that the information is insufficient to perform the test, it shall reject the request.

3. Within one month of receiving the request for the economic equilibrium test, the regulatory body shall also ask other parties referred to in Article 7(2) to provide it with the information necessary to perform the test in accordance with that provision, to the extent that such information can reasonably be provided by the party concerned. Where the information thus provided is incomplete, the regulatory body may request further clarifications, setting reasonable deadlines.

4. In the event that six weeks before the final date for receipt of requests for capacity set in accordance with point 3 of Annex VII to Directive 2012/34/EU the information provided by the applicant seeking access is still incomplete the regulatory body shall perform the test on the basis of available information. If, however, the regulatory body considers that the information provided by the applicant is insufficient to perform the test, it shall adopt a decision resulting in access being denied.

5. Where the undertaking performing the public service contract is not the requesting entity, and where six weeks before the final date for receipt of requests for capacity set in accordance with point 3 of Annex VII to Directive 2012/34/EU the information provided by this undertaking is still incomplete, the regulatory body shall perform the test on the basis of available information. If, however, the regulatory body considers that the information provided is insufficient to perform the test, it shall adopt a decision resulting in access being granted.

6. The regulatory body shall adopt a decision within six weeks from the receipt of all relevant information, and in any event before the final date for receipt of requests for capacity set in accordance with point 3 of Annex VII to Directive 2012/34/EU. The regulatory body shall inform the infrastructure manager of its decision without delay.

7. Where a request for the economic equilibrium test is made according to Article 5(2) in respect of a public service contract which is in the process of being competitively tendered, the regulatory body may suspend consideration of the proposed application for a new rail passenger service for a maximum period of 12 months from receipt of the applicant's notification of the new rail passenger service or until the tender process has concluded, whichever is the sooner.

Article 10

Contents of the economic equilibrium test and assessment criteria

1. The regulatory body shall assess whether the economic equilibrium of a public service contract would be compromised by the proposed new rail passenger service. Economic equilibrium shall be considered as compromised where the new rail passenger service would have a substantial negative impact on at least one of the following elements:

- (a) the profitability of services that the railway undertaking operates under the public service contract;
- (b) the net cost for the competent authority awarding the public service contract.

2. The analysis shall refer to the public service contract as a whole, not to individual services operated under it, over its entire duration. Predetermined thresholds or specific criteria may be applied but not strictly or in isolation from other criteria.

3. The regulatory body shall assess the net financial impact of the new rail passenger service on the public service contract. The analysis of costs and revenues generated in operating the services covered by the public service contract after the market entry of the new rail passenger service shall include the following elements:

- (a) variation in costs incurred and revenues obtained by the railway undertaking performing the public service contract (including where relevant any cost savings, such as those arising from the non-replacement of rolling stock reaching the end of its useful life or staff whose contract ends);
- (b) financial effects generated within the network under public service contract by the proposed new rail passenger service (such as bringing passengers who might be interested in a connection with a regional service covered by the public service contract);
- (c) possible competitive responses by the railway undertaking performing the public service contract;
- (d) impact on relevant investments by railway undertakings, or by competent authorities, for example in rolling stock;
- (e) the value of any existing exclusive rights.

4. The regulatory body shall assess the significance of the impact taking into account, in particular, the contractual arrangements in place between the competent authority and the railway undertaking operating the public services, including where applicable the level of compensation determined in accordance with the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 or resulting from competitive award and any mechanisms for sharing risks such as traffic and revenue risks.

5. The regulatory body shall also assess:

- (a) the net benefits to customers arising from the new rail passenger service in the short and medium term;
- (b) the impact of the new rail passenger service on the performance and quality of railway services;
- (c) the impact of the new rail passenger service on timetable planning for railway services.

6. Where the regulatory body is examining more than one application for access, it may take different decisions on the applications received, based on an analysis of their respective impacts on the economic equilibrium of the public service contract, competitive effects, net benefits to customers and network impacts, and of their cumulative effects on the economic equilibrium of the public service contract.

7. The assessment carried out in accordance with this Article is without prejudice to the regulatory body's obligation to report State aid issues to the national authorities in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 56(12) of Directive 2012/34/EU.

Article 11

Result of the economic equilibrium test

1. As a result of the economic equilibrium test carried out in accordance with Articles 9 and 10, the regulatory body shall take a decision provided for in Article 11(2) of Directive 2012/34/EU, on the basis of which the right of access to the rail infrastructure shall be granted, modified, granted only under conditions or denied.

2. Where the economic equilibrium of a public service contract would be compromised by the new rail passenger service, the regulatory body:

- (a) shall, as appropriate, indicate possible changes to that new rail passenger service, such as a modification of frequencies, paths, intermediate stops or schedule, which would ensure that the conditions for granting the right of access provided for in Article 10(2) of Directive 2012/34/EU are met; and/or
- (b) may issue recommendations to the competent authorities, where relevant in the light of net benefits to customers referred to in point (a) of Article 10(5) of this Regulation, concerning other changes not related to the new passenger service that would ensure that the conditions for granting the right of access are met.

3. Where the request for access concerns the operation of a new service as defined by Article 3(36) of Directive 2012/34/EU, following the procedure and analysis laid down in this regulation, the regulatory body shall act in accordance with Article 11a of Directive 2012/34/EU.
4. In the circumstances described in Article 5(2) second subparagraph, where the economic equilibrium test on the existing public service contract demonstrates that access can be granted, it shall be time-limited, pending the outcome of the economic equilibrium test to be carried out in accordance with Article 5(2), first paragraph and Article 9(7).
5. The regulatory body shall notify a non-confidential version of its decision to the entities listed in Article 11(3) of Directive 2012/34/EU and publish it on its website.

Article 12

Cooperation between regulatory bodies competent for a proposed new international passenger service

1. Upon receipt of an applicant's notification of its intention to start a new international passenger service, the regulatory body shall inform the other regulatory bodies having competence for the route of the proposed new service. The regulatory bodies concerned shall check the information received and inform each other of any inconsistencies.
2. Upon receipt of a request from the entities referred to in Article 11(2) of Directive 2012/34/EU for an economic equilibrium test, the regulatory body shall inform thereof the other competent regulatory bodies.
3. Regulatory bodies shall provide each other with the results of their respective economic equilibrium tests in order to give the other regulatory bodies sufficient opportunity to comment on the results of those tests before they are finalised. They shall cooperate in order to bring about a resolution of the matter in accordance with Article 57 of Directive 2012/34/EU.
4. During any exchange of information regarding the tests, regulatory bodies shall respect the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information received from the parties involved in the tests. They may only use the information for the case concerned.

Article 13

Fees

A Member State or the regulatory body may decide that a fee be paid for the economic equilibrium test by the entity requesting the test.

Article 14

Methodology

1. The methodology used by the regulatory body to perform the test shall be clear, transparent and non-discriminatory and shall be published on its website.
2. Regulatory bodies shall exchange experiences and best practices in applying their respective methodologies in the context of the network established in Article 57(1) of Directive 2012/34/EU.

Article 15

Repeal

Implementing Regulation (EU) No 869/2014 is repealed with effect from 12 December 2020. It shall apply to applicants' notifications received after 1 January 2019 only where these are submitted sufficiently in advance for the new rail passenger services to be able to start before 12 December 2020.

*Article 16***Entry into force and application**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2019, in time for the working timetable starting on 12 December 2020.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 November 2018.

For the Commission
The President
Jean-Claude JUNCKER
