Network Statement Glossary

Definitions of terms related to railway network statements

Legal Disclaimer
The Glossary is a linguistic tool, not a legal document. The definitions it contains are solely intended as advice to rail customers, translators of network statements and other interested parties. Please note the Legal Disclaimer at the beginning of the Glossary, which stresses that the available material is for information purposes only and that RNE does not accept any liabilities. By using the Glossary, you agree to the terms of the Legal Disclaimer.

Any questions or comments?
Comments from readers and requests for further definitions are very welcome. Please send your observations or requests to:

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Network Statement Glossary Facts:
» Contains more than 600 definitions of terms commonly found in English versions of network statements
» Legal and technical jargon kept to a minimum
» Official definitions used wherever available (coming from EU, UIC, OTIF, etc.)
» References to relevant European Union legislation where applicable
Network Statements for the Railways of Europe

The ‘open access’ policy implemented by the European Commission envisages competition among Applicants. This requires easy and fair access to comprehensive, up-to-date and open information about rail networks. Directive 2001/14/EC therefore introduced the obligation to publish a network statement and defined the basic requirements for the document. This obligation is also emphasised under Directive 2012/34/EU.

What is a network statement?
Network statements are key to market access. They are a direct line from Infrastructure Managers / Allocation Bodies (IMs / ABs) to customers and a starting point for the provision of competitive rail services in the single European railway area. Essentially, they are commercial documents.

What type of information will you find in a network statement?
Network statements contain all the information that Applicants need to know in order to place requests for infrastructure capacity:
- general description of the rail infrastructure
- legal access conditions: principles, criteria and procedures for the allocation of train paths
- commercial access conditions (e.g. charging principles, charges for different services)

How easy is it to find the information you need?
In order to increase the customer-friendliness of network statements, as well as their consistency across Europe, RNE has harmonised the way they are structured: a Common Structure is in place, dividing the Network Statement into 6 main chapters, with updates/reviews every year. In addition, RNE published an Implementation Guide within the Common Structure.

A Glossary Dedicated to Network Statements

Under EU Directive 2012/34/EU (Art. 27) ‘The network statement shall be published no less than four months in advance of the deadline for requests for infrastructure capacity’. Network statements shall be published at least two official languages of the European Union. In May 2010, the RNE General Assembly made it mandatory to translate the main document in network statements into English.

Why harmonise the terminology used in the English-language versions of network statements?
The use and interpretation of specialised terms often diverge from network to network across Europe. Hence there was a need to define terms that are commonly employed in the English-language versions of network statements and RNE created a new tool, a Glossary of terms related to network statements, first published in December 2009.

A harmonised, common terminology will facilitate communication between IMs / ABs, as well as between them and their international customers. In addition, it will increase the comparability of the network statements’ contents and simplify the use of these documents within the One-Stop-Shop network.

Who should use this Glossary?
- International customers of IMs
- IMs/ABs
- Translators of network statements

Why should you use RNE’s Network Statement Glossary?
The Glossary should be used to avoid misinterpretations and it provides practical guidance for drafting or translating documents related to network statements. The definitions are written in a clear language using as little technical or legal jargon as possible. Wherever definitions by official bodies are available, these have been included (from EU legislation, UN, ECE, UIC, ERA, OTIF, etc.).

How easy is it to find the terms you need?
All terms are listed alphabetically. If you cannot find a term, you can use the standard ‘Search’ function to find it inside a listed expression/definition.