Background

EU-wide **minimum standards** on working time apply to rail cross-border mobile workers.

These minimum standards are set out in the Council Directive 2005/47/EC, which implements a binding social partners’ Agreement concluded by CER and ETF in 2004.

**Facts**

**Minimum daily rest**
- **At home:** 12 consecutive hours
- **Away from home:** 8 consecutive hours

**Regulation of driving time**
- **9 hours during the day**
- **8 hours during the night**
- **80 hours over 2 weeks**

Due consideration is given to the work-life balance needs of workers:
- Cross-border mobile workers can spend a maximum of 2 consecutive daily rests away from home. This means: after **maximum 2 daily rests away from home**, mobile workers have to spend one daily rest at home.
- Among the **weekly rest periods** that cross-border mobile workers are entitled to in a year, at least 24 must be of 48 hours and cover fully or partially the weekend.

**Impact**

In the context of the increasing importance and steady development of international rail transport, these minimum standards:

- **avoid unfair competition** based on differences in working conditions
- **help protect worker health and safety** of cross-border rail workers
- **contribute to rail operational safety**

These aspects are also systematically taken into account in the determination of the working conditions of national rail mobile workers, via collective bargaining and dialogue between national and company-level social partners.