

## **Employment: Commission welcomes new French rules on working conditions for rail workers; infringement case closed**

*The European Commission has welcomed new French rules on working conditions in the international rail sector that mean that France now complies with its obligations under EU law in this area (laid down in Directive [2005/47/EC](#)). The Directive lays down minimum working condition standards, such as driving times, breaks and daily and weekly rest periods. As a result, the Commission has now closed its infringement case against France.*

The EU rules on working conditions for mobile workers in international rail transport (Directive [2005/47/EC](#)) translate an agreement between European trade unions and employers into law and should have been implemented by the Member States by 27 July 2008 at the latest, following consultation of the social partners.

The Directive aims to ensure satisfactory conditions for those working in cross-border rail services – estimated at around 10,000 workers in 2005 and projected to rise to 20,000 by 2020. The sector is characterised by long shifts, night work and irregular working hours, with resulting risks for health and safety of workers, quality of work and work-life balance.

On 25 June 2009, France had neither adopted the necessary measures to comply with the Directive nor provided notification and the Commission decided to send a formal request to France to comply with its obligations under EU law (in the form of a 'reasoned opinion' under EU infringement procedures - see [IP/09/1037](#)). As France has now notified the Commission of measures to implement the Directive correctly, the Commission has decided to close the infringement case.

### **Further information**

EU labour law : <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=157&langId=en>