



**International railway safety conference  
Sweden Sept 28th – Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

**EPSF presentation**

**Theme**

Safety standards – harmonisation or uniformity

**Title**

The inevitable evolution of railway safety regulation in Europe – A challenge – Risks to be controlled.

**Abstract**

Basics – History

Regulation is a fundamental and an integral part of the railway system, as well as infrastructure, rolling stock and human factor. Regulation is closely linked with equipments. There can be no railway without regulation.

Regulation has been written decades ago by the railway companies for their own purpose. State governments have taken little part on this.

Recent evolutions

Two fundamental evolutions were introduced 20 years ago by the European commission:

- identifying all the actors in this sector : infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, entities in charge of maintenance, national safety authorities, ...
- permitting interoperability.

Those evolutions are guided and sustained by European rules: directives and technical specifications for interoperability.

These evolutions make it necessary, for each Member State, to review and update its national rules and standards.

Main difficulties

This is a huge task (in France, about 300 documents must be re written) with a lack of experts to do it.



There must be a European wide coordination between the railway agencies, the member States, the national safety authorities and the stake holders.

The responsibilities of each entity must be clearly identified. There must be neither omission nor redundancy.