

National report for Finland – June 2013

Date	10.6.2013
Country	Finland
Organisation Name	Suomen Rautatiematkustajat ry, http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/ Kalevi Kämäräinen

Positive points for public transport in our country:

1. All long-distance trains are non-smoking since 3rd June (other trains being smoke-free already before).
2. VR has launched a discount campaign with substantially reduced prices. For example, you can buy a single ticket to any destination on Saturdays in July with 10 euros. There are also many other discounts offered.¹
3. Helsinki underground is going to start night traffic trials later this year (probably November) on Fridays and Saturdays.
4. VR has placed an order of 13 new double-deck control cars² and 11 restaurant cars³ with a worth of 55 million euros.
5. The overall number of domestic flight passengers has diminished in the first quarter by almost 18 per cent compared with the first quarter of last year (the most dramatic drop being almost 56 per cent in the airport of Lappeenranta).
6. We are not quite alone with our desire to liberalize the domestic passenger rail market. Helsinki Region Transport urges the same with the help of UITP⁴.

Negative points for public transport in our country:

1. The official Finnish attitude to the Fourth Railway Package of the European Commission can be defined as reactionary⁵. So, we decided to express our views directly to the European Commission, Council of the European Union and European Parliament, both in Finnish⁶ (the original language) and in English⁷. It remains to be seen what an impact (if any) our letter will have.
2. The downside of the new rolling stock purchases is that older but still usable⁸ rolling stock is being scrapped with nobody doing anything to prevent it.
3. EU is going to co-finance Helsinki City Rail Loop study (this being negative because no cheaper alternatives have been reviewed⁹).

NOTE: If the provided links are in Finnish, you might get understandable text by using google translator. And if something is still left open, you can ask details from us.

¹ <http://www.vr.fi/en/index.html>

² <http://www.transtech.fi/index.php?396>

³ <http://www.transtech.fi/index.php?400>

⁴ http://www.hsl.fi/fi/mikaonhsl/Uutiset/2013/Sivut/Page_20130606114023.aspx,
<http://www.hsl.fi/FI/mikaonhsl/Documents/Tiedoteliitteet/Brigitte%20Ollier%20UITP%20Helsinki%20June2013.pdf>

⁵ http://www.eduskunta.fi/faktatmp/utatmp/akxtmp/livl_10_2013_p.shtml,
http://www.eduskunta.fi/faktatmp/utatmp/akxtmp/suup_16_2013_p.shtml (17 § U 8 / 2013 vp)

⁶ http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/EU_RATAPAKETTI4_EHD.pdf

⁷ http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/EU_RAILWAYPACKAGE4.pdf

⁸ <http://www.vaunut.org/sarja/2396>

⁹ http://tentea.ec.europa.eu/en/news_events/newsroom/eu_co-financing_to_help_further_plans_for_helsinki_city_rail_loop.htm