

National report for Finland – January 2014

Date	5.1.2014
Country	Finland
Organisation Name	Suomen Rautatiematkustajat ry, http://www.rautatiematkustajat.fi/ Kalevi Kämäräinen

Positive points for public transport in our country:

1. The new double deck control cars have been in ordinary traffic since October.¹
2. The first new double deck restaurant car will also be in ordinary traffic in January.²
3. VR orders 80 new electric locomotives from Siemens with an option for another 97 locos. The most positive aspect from the passenger point of view is the auxiliary diesel engine. If there is a power cut, the whole train will stay warm, however.³
4. The new rolling stock maintenance depot in Oulu was put into service this month.⁴ Passenger rolling stock can now be overhauled in Helsinki, Turku and Oulu.

Negative points for public transport in our country:

1. The Finnish Government granted a five-year extension to VR's long-distance passenger service monopoly in July, 2013.⁵ Before Regulation (EC) No 1370 / 2007⁶ came into force, VR monopoly was based on parliamentary law. But as the EU law came into force, only the Cabinet made the decision both in 2009 and 2013.
We are going to lodge a complaint with the EU commission because we consider the situation incompatible with provisions as well as principles of EU law. The complaint will be presented in the near future (a week or two hopefully).
2. As usual, those electric locomotives to be replaced will be scrapped instead of offered for sale.
3. VR does not publish a pocket timetable for Helsinki region commuter traffic any more – and neither does Helsinki Region Transport Authority. The informativeness of the long distance pocket timetable has also been reduced while exceptions of running days are no more told (VR personnel still gets this information in printed form). So you have to check otherwise whether your train will be running during Christmas time, for example.

¹ <http://www.transtech.fi/index.php?395>,
<http://www.ts.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/553617/VRn+uudet+ohjausvaunut+aloittivat+matkustajaliikenteessa>

² <http://www.transtech.fi/index.php?398>, <http://vaunut.org/kuva/89221>

³ <http://www.talouselama.fi/uutiset/vr+teki+yli+300+miljoonan+euron+jattitilauksen+siemensilta/a2222720>,
<http://www.siemens.com/press/en/pressrelease/?press=/en/pressrelease/2013/infrastructure-cities/ic201312005.htm>

⁴ <http://www.kaleva.fi/uutiset/oulu/oulun-uusi-varikko-otetaan-kayttoon-vuodenvaihteessa/649489/>

⁵ <http://www.railwaygazette.com/news/policy/single-view/view/vr-retains-long-distance-passenger-train-monopoly.html>

⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:315:0001:0013:EN:PDF>



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