

Railway policy in Finland

Finnish Railway Passengers' Association has applied to EU about the Finnish government's disregard of competition rules

The legal process now seems necessary (could have been done already in 2009 had we read the PSO text carefully enough)

All mainline Railways are left to VR monopoly by a decision in 2009

- Only some peripheral railway lines are open to competition
 - The argument is formally VR's huge rolling stock investment project. However the new carriages specified are merely a little portion of the whole investment project
 - Old carriages are scrapped in order to avoid competition
-

Declaration of monopoly on the railways

- A peculiar position since Finland has a strong competition tradition
- This gives the unfortunate signal that monopoly is the preferred method
- Finland is usually a strong supporter of EU



Railway passengers are left out of the process

- Competition is intended to safeguard development according to the users' needs
- A monopoly declaration is contrary to the ideas of users' choice

VR Group (essentially the old State railways) – the only railway company

- Bus deregulation is well done – and has worked for many years
- All cities have common bus terminals for all companies
- A common ticketing system is being developed in regional traffic

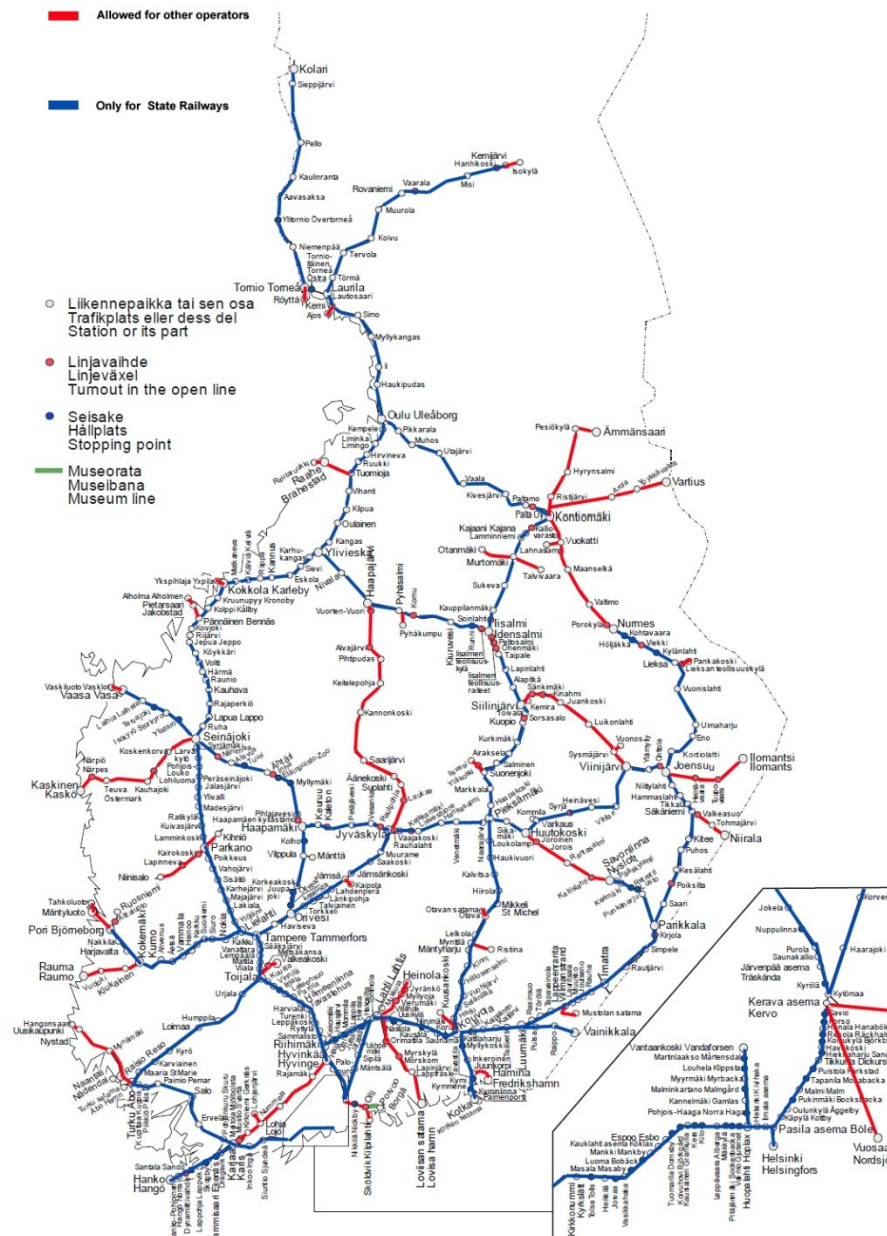


Figure 4. Traffic operating points on the state-owned rail network at the beginning of timetable period 2013.

More information on Finnish railway policy

Finnish Railway Passengers'
chairman Kalevi Kämäräinen
kalevi.kamarainen@gmail.com

A more detailed analysis is available
in English

