

# Conformity Assessment in Railways

IPA Workshop 24/03/2026

Belgrade (RS) | Jean Paul LODZINSKI



EUROPEAN  
UNION  
AGENCY  
FOR RAILWAYS

# CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment

# Main players/parties

**1<sup>st</sup> party**

**MANUFACTURER/  
SERVICE PROVIDER**

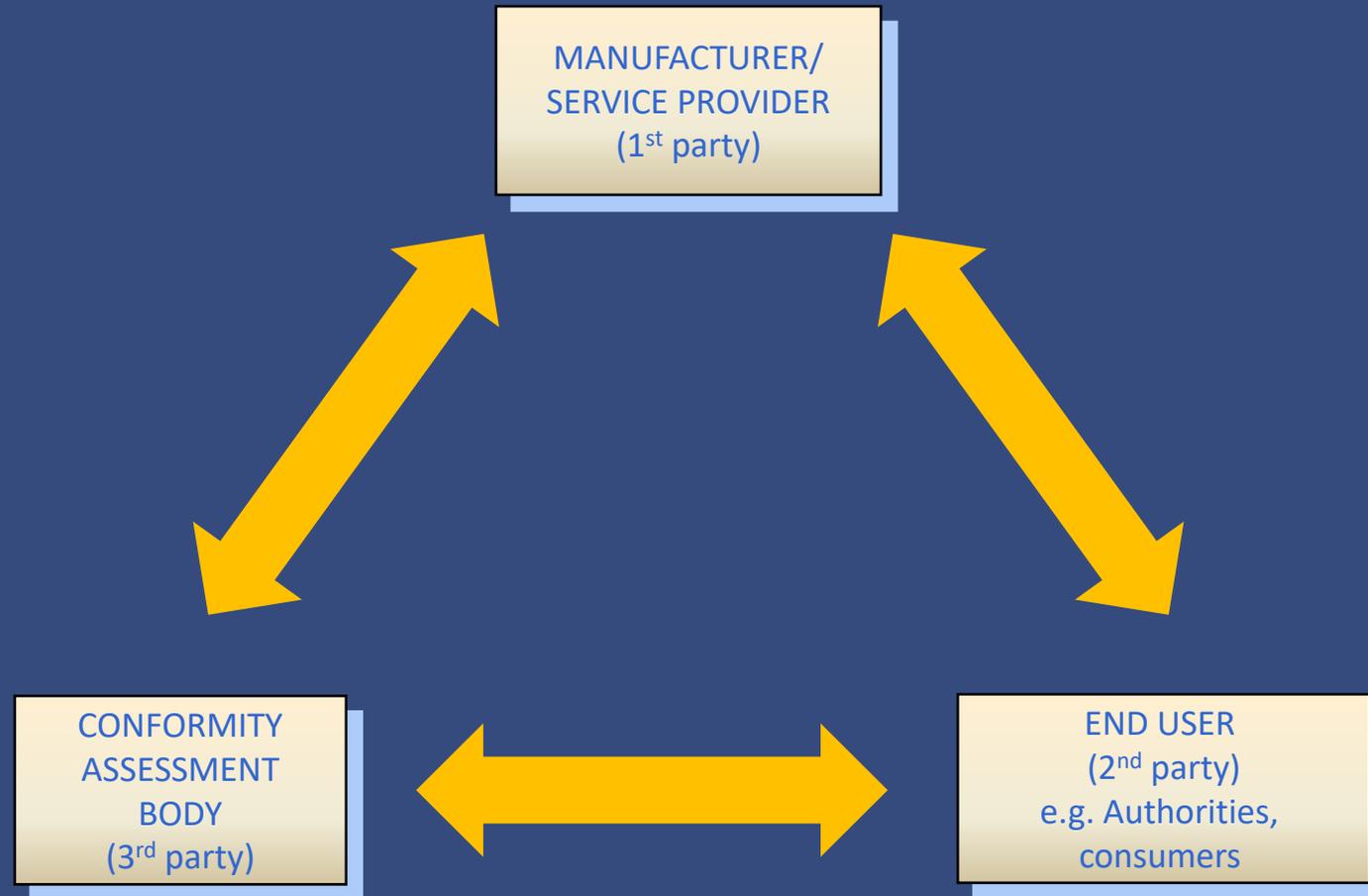
**2<sup>nd</sup> party**

**END USER  
e.g. Authorities,  
consumers**

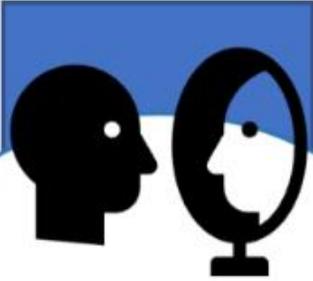
**3<sup>rd</sup> party**

**CONFORMITY  
ASSESSMENT  
BODY**

# TRIANGLE OF ROLES



# 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment



**First-party**  
=  
Internal audit



**Second-party**  
=  
Supplier-buyer  
audit



**Third-party**  
=  
Certification  
audit

# 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment

MANUFACTURER/  
SERVICE PROVIDER  
(1<sup>st</sup> party)

Internal control/self-verification/self-declaration done by the company itself

END USER  
e.g. Authorities,  
consumers  
(2<sup>nd</sup> party)

User/buyer verifies that supplier complies with criteria of a specific standard

CONFORMITY  
ASSESSMENT  
BODY  
(3<sup>rd</sup> party)

Independent entity: a certification body checks whether a supplier and/or buyer meets the standards of a specific certification scheme

# 1<sup>st</sup> party assessment

## FIRST PARTY AUDIT



Internal audit.



organizations internal requirements or standards.



Improvement tool.



Never result in certification.

# 1<sup>st</sup> party assessment

Organization itself audits/assesses a product, service, process or set of processes to ensure it meets company requirements

- Health & Safety: non critical sectors/domains, low risk to public
- Characterized by low trust, low confidence

*According to survey\*, 44% or nearly half of the people in the US and Canada distrust what manufacturers claim on their food labels...*

- Less costly than 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment, bigger profit margins for companies...

\* Carried out by Nielsen's Global Health & Wellness



First Party Certification

---

- ◆ Declared by Brand
- ◆ High Conflict of interest
- ◆ Low Trust Signaling
- ◆ Low Confidence
- ◆ Low-Value Claim
- ◆ Zero Impact on Price
- ◆ Differentiation Potential

# 2<sup>nd</sup> party assessment

## SECOND PARTY AUDIT



External audits .



Requirements specified in the contract.



Developing a more robust supply chain.



Not related to certification.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> party assessment

User/client/buyer verifies that supplier complies with criteria of a specific standard

- Health & Safety: medium/acceptable risk, non critical sectors/domains
- Verification means/tools: e.g. client/user questionnaire, audits
- Medium level of trust/confidence/conflict of interest
- Higher production/manufacturing costs → increase price tag
- Requires some level of competence by 2<sup>nd</sup> party (user/client/buyer)



Second-Party Certification

---

- ◆ Declared by Co-Packer
- ◆ Medium Conflict of interest
- ◆ Medium Trust Signaling
- ◆ Medium Confidence
- ◆ Medium-Value Claim
- ◆ Less than 2% Impact on Price Differentiation Potential

# 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment

## THIRD PARTY AUDIT



External audits .



Verify Compliance



Instils confidence in the customer.



Results In certification.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment

Certification provided by independent party

- Indicated for safety critical services/sectors/domains (e.g. railways, nuclear plants, etc.) → Intolerable risk/failure, severe impact
- Verification means/tools: on-site audits/inspections
- High level of trust/confidence
- No direct financial interest relationship supplier & buyer, reduces conflict of interest
- Higher production/manufacturing costs → increase price tag
- Requires competent 3<sup>rd</sup> party CABs

3<sup>rd</sup> party certification → fastest and most effective way to increase trust, offers a stronger form of trust than 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> party claims



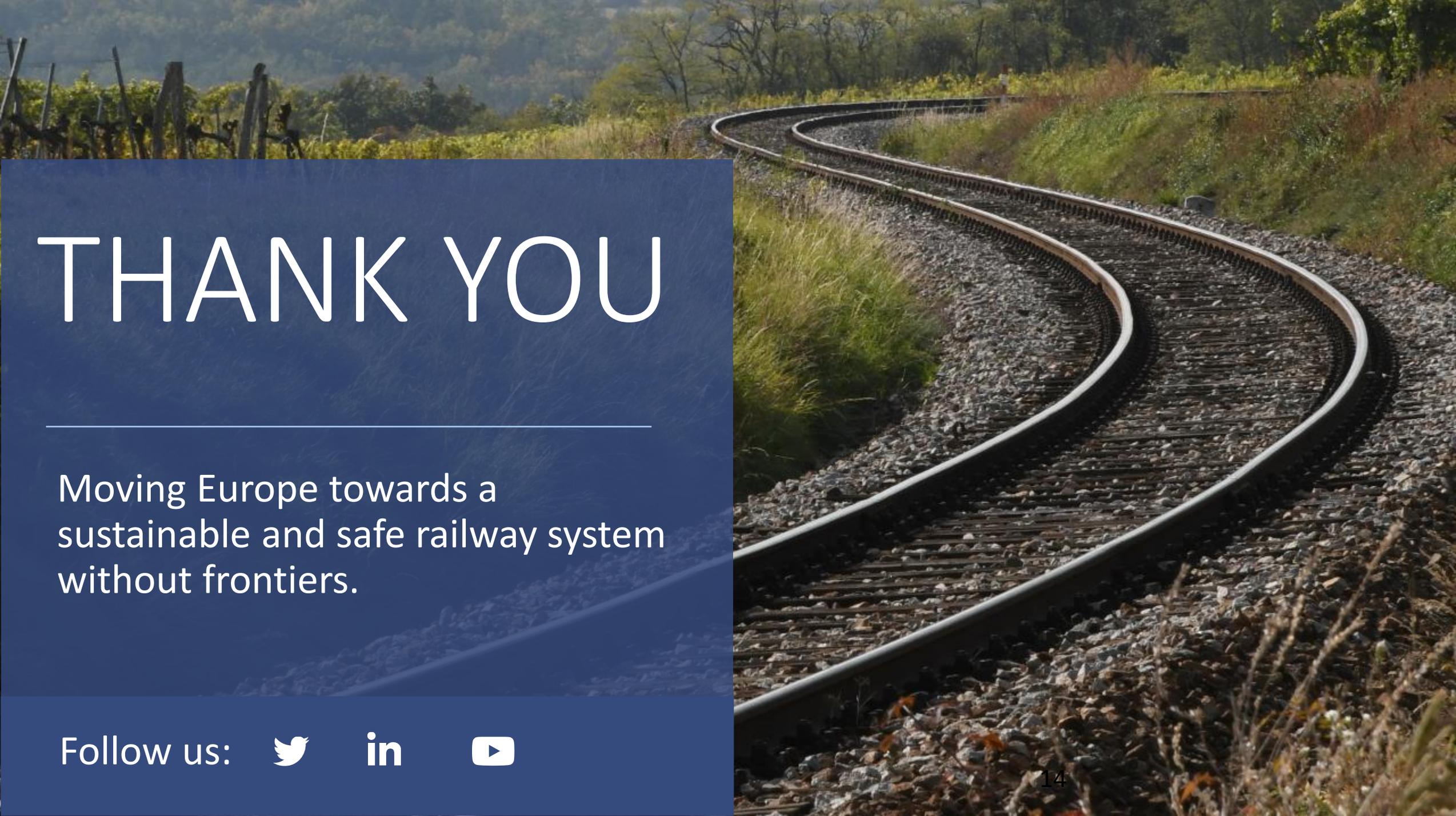
Third-Party Certification

- ◆ Declared by Organization
- ◆ Zero Conflict of interest
- ◆ High Trust Signaling
- ◆ Highest Confidence
- ◆ High-Value Claim
- ◆ Up to 55% Impact on Differentiation Potential

# 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment?

## POINTS OF STRENGTH

3<sup>rd</sup> certification is an effective way for manufacturers/suppliers to increase consumer trust, confidence, and sales because of offering enhanced transparency, enhanced believability of on-package claims, social proof from an impartial organization upholding universal standards, and the best product differentiation strategy according to research



# THANK YOU

---

Moving Europe towards a sustainable and safe railway system without frontiers.

Follow us:



in

