According to Annex VI of the Directive 2007/59/EC, drivers who have to communicate with the infrastructure manager on critical safety issues must have language skills in the language indicated by the infrastructure manager concerned. Their language skills must be such that they can communicate actively and effectively in routine, adverse and emergency situations.

The Commission would like to emphasise this requirement is meant to ensure an adequate follow-up between the driver and infrastructure manager in case of incidents and therefore reduce potential passengers’ safety issues.

Under certain conditions (paragraph 3 of section 8 of annex VI), the directive foresees the possibility of specific derogations for cross border sections. The Commission will propose in 2022, beginning of 2023, a revised regulatory framework for train drivers, addressing the shortcomings of the existing regime and limiting the recurrent obligation to obtain additional documents and certificates. Such a proposal may also include the language regime for train operations and modifications reflecting the technological developments in the sector.