



# 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quiz

8 October 2025  
Porto, Portugal



# Part 1



# Questions about Portugal

1

Which **river** flows  
through **Porto**?



# Douro river

- The Douro is an important river that flows through northern Portugal and part of Spain. It rises in Soria (northeast of Madrid), and flows west to the Atlantic Ocean near Porto.
- The Douro plays a key role in irrigation and river transportation in the area.
- The Douro River is famous for the wine region along its banks, especially the Douro valley, known for its terraced vineyards. This region produces the renowned port wine.



2

**What is the biggest  
city in Portugal?**



# Lisbon

- Lisbon is the capital and the largest city by population and area.
- Home to approximately 545,000 people within its administrative limits, with a larger metropolitan population of around 2.9 million.
- Although its administrative city area is relatively small at 100.05 km<sup>2</sup>. It serves as the country's political, economic, and cultural center and is Europe's westernmost capital city.



3

**What is the form of  
Portuguese painted  
ceramic tilework  
called?**



# Azulejo

- Azulejos are decorative ceramic tiles, often glazed, that are a traditional art form in Portugal and parts of Spain.
- Word is of an Arabic origin, meaning “polished stone”.
- This art form first developed in Andalusia in the 15<sup>th</sup> century before reaching its peak in Portugal in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.





4

How many people live  
in the city of Porto?

# Approximately 252,000

- As of 2024, Porto, the second-largest city in Portugal, is home to approximately 252,000 inhabitants.
- Porto's urban area (including suburbs) has around 1.4 million people in an area of 2,395 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Metropolitan area of Porto (17 municipalities) has about 1.8 million inhabitants.



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**What are the  
3 best things to see  
in Porto?**



## 1. Dom Luís I Bridge

- Porto's symbol, offering spectacular views of the Douro River and connecting the city to Vila Nova de Gaia

## 2. São Bento Railway Station

- Renowned for its stunning azulejos depicting the history of Portugal

## 3. Clérigos Tower (Torre dos Clérigos)

- Iconic monument with panoramic views of the entire city from its top

## 4. Palácio de Bolsa (Stock Exchange Palace)

- 19<sup>th</sup> century masterpiece, famous for its impressive Arab Room

## 5. Lello Bookstore

- One of the most beautiful bookstores in the world, famous for its iconic staircase and neo-Gothic architecture



## Part 2



# Questions about Railway

6

**Where did the first  
freight train run and  
what did it carry?**



# England & Coal

- The first freight train ran in 1825 in England on the Stockton and Darlington Railway
- It primarily carried coal from mines near Shildon to the port of Stockton-on-Tees for shipment



7

**Approximately what  
percentage of freight  
in Europe is  
transported by rail?**



# 10–15% of Inland Freight

- In Europe, rail accounts for roughly 10–15% of inland freight transport on average, though the exact share varies by country and type of cargo.
- For example, in Germany, rail freight is higher (around 17–20% of total inland freight) than in France (closer to 11–12%)





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**Which European city  
is considered as the  
largest hub for  
intermodal rail  
freight?**

# Rotterdam

- The largest hub for intermodal rail freight in Europe is Rotterdam in the Netherlands.
- Its rail connections link the port to major industrial and commercial centers across Europe, including Germany, France, Italy, and the UK.
- The city has extensive intermodal terminals, allowing smooth transfers between ships, trucks, and trains.
- It is a key node in the “North Sea–Mediterranean” corridor of the EU’s rail freight network.
- Other major hubs include **Antwerp** (Belgium) and **Hamburg** (Germany), but Rotterdam consistently ranks at the top for intermodal rail freight volume.



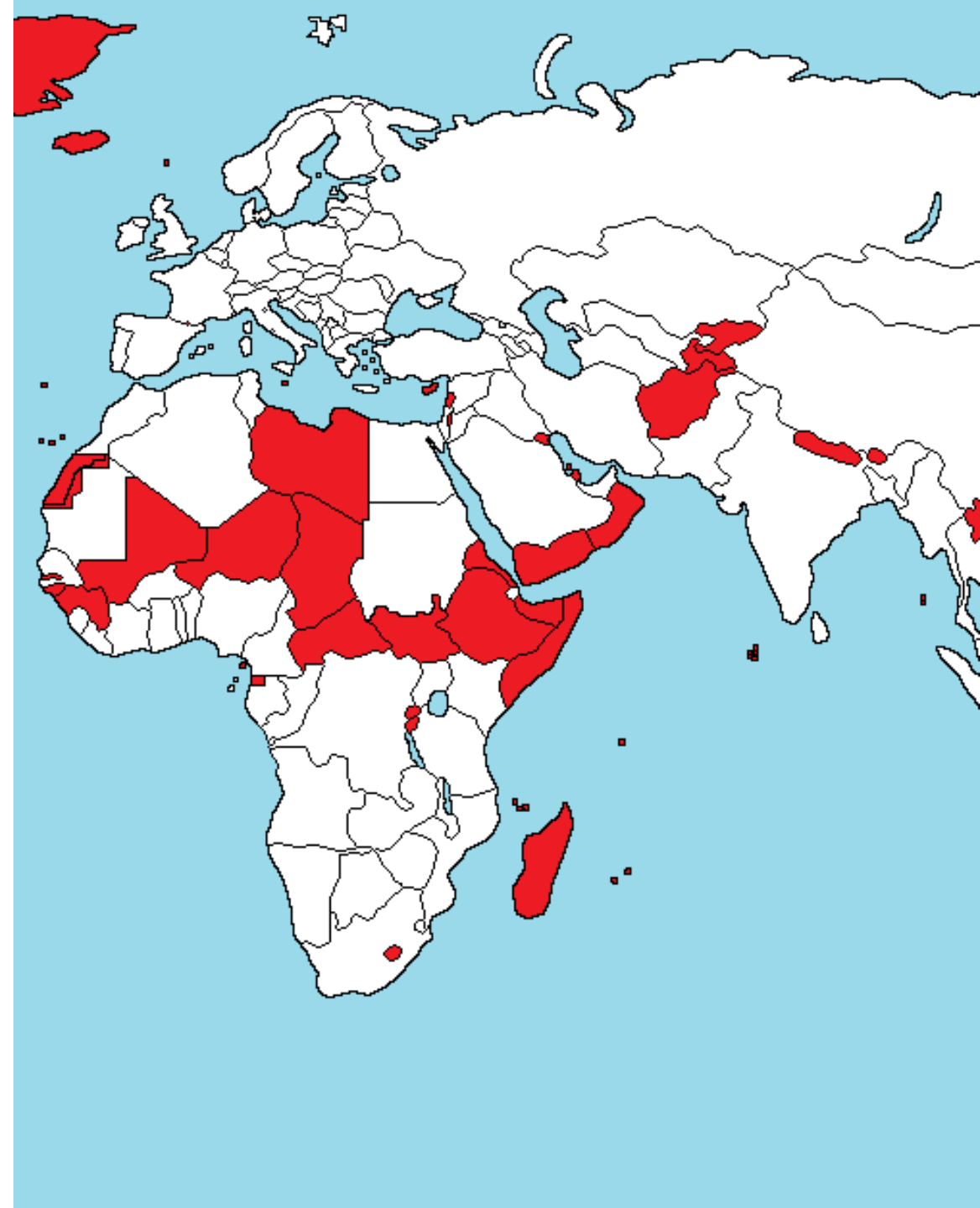
9

**Which European  
country does not  
have a railway – nor  
passenger, nor  
freight?**



# Iceland and a few others...

- I expected **Iceland** as an answer
- But I also accept
  - **Cyprus**
  - **Malta**
  - **Andorra**
- Some other non-European countries without any railway are:
  - Rwanda
  - Bhutan
  - East Timor
  - Papua New Guinea
  - Libya
  - Qatar
  - and others...



## Part 3



# Questions about RailData

10

**Which UIC IT project  
was the predecessor  
of ORFEUS?**

**And what was before ISR?**



# DOCIMEL ➤ ORFEUS

## HIPPS ➤ ISR

### ➤ **DOCIMEL** – DOCument CIM Électronique

- CIT defined basic principles for paperless CIM in 1985
- UIC team completed specs for 102 messages in 1992
- 1993: 5 railways agreed on a central system and founded **Euraildata**
- 1994: Specifications for **ORFEUS**, start with just 1 message



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**What does HIPPS  
stand for?**

# Hermes International Production Planning and control System

## ➤ HIPPS

- 1990–1994 team did specifications for 4 functions
- F1.1 (theoretical trip plan) and F2,3,4 (real plan, monitor, actions)
- F1.1 for wagon trip plan with ETI/ETA based on train timetables

Minutes\_1st\_meeting\_RD\_1995.pdf - Adobe Reader

Soubor Úpravy Zobrazení Dokument Nástroje Okna nápověda

Niederschrift  
über die  
Konstituierende Sitzung  
RAILDATA  
Bern, 23.03.1995

### Teilnehmerliste

#### Herren

Dr. Eberhard Gottschalk	DB AG
Klaus Vogel	DB AG
Armin Böhlke	DB AG
Jesper Jensen	DSB
Pavel Pinkas	CD

#### Frau

Pascale Joyet	CIT
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#### Herren

Marcello De Rossi	FS
Marcello Penco	FS
Karl-Heinz Häußler	HIPPS
Ties van Ark	NS-Cargo
Michael Johrend	ÖBB
Helmut Gawlas	ÖBB

#### Frau

Rosa Martin Moreno	RENFE
Begona Romero	RENFE

#### Herren

Antonio Hernandez	RENFE
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Start

Total Commander...

Sitová připojení

Microsoft PowerP...

Minutes\_1st\_meet...

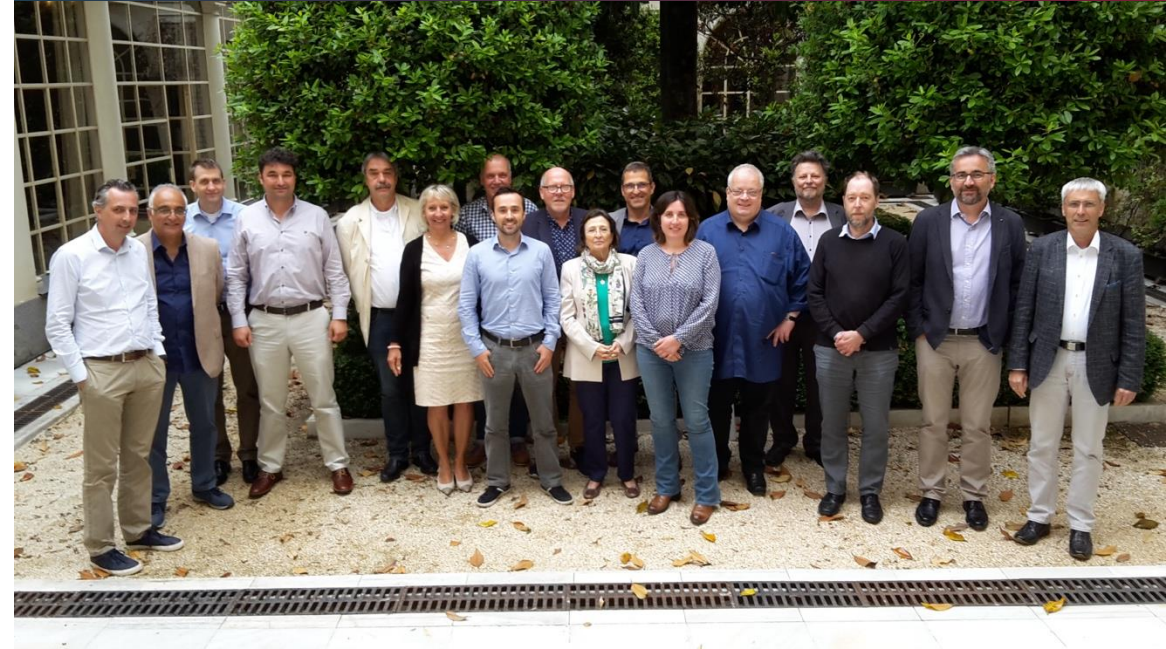


12

**Year 2020 was a difficult one due to COVID. Who was the chairman of RailData that year?**

# Mark VERHULST

- November 2019 to November 2021.
- Tommy Ransmark served as vice-chairman at that time.



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**How many chairmen  
has RailData had until  
today?**



# 10 Chairmen

- Bo Sandberg (1995–1999)
- Oliver Maurel (2000–2006)
- Martin Rühl (2006–2007)
- Rainer Wilke (2007–2013)
- Francis Bedel (2013–2016)
- Maarten Kesselaers (2017–2018)
- Michael Pfitzner (2018–2019)
- Mark Verhulst (2019–2021)
- Tommy Ransmark (2021–2025)
- Mahesh Bhattar (2025–present)



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**Financial question...**

**What currency was used  
for international  
accounting in 1995,  
when RailData was  
established?**



# ECU

## European Currency Unit

- It was used between 1979 and 1999 before the introduction of Euro.





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**Including the year 2025,  
how many General  
Meetings, including  
extraordinary ones,  
have been held for  
RailData?**

# 92 General Meetings

- ▶ On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we will hold our 92<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Berlin



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**What is RailData's  
next big  
development?**



# Thank You for Your Inputs!

I wish I could **predict the future**  
and tell you the answer...

RailData's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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