



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.11.2018  
C(2018) 7755 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Bundestag for its Reasoned Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on streamlining measures for advancing the realisation of the trans-European transport network {COM(2018) 277 final}.*

*The Commission appreciates that the aim of this proposal, which is to support the efficient and on-time implementation of the trans-European transport core network, is shared by the Bundestag. The quick delivery of high-quality and state-of-the-art transport infrastructure of European importance is a pre-requisite for the achievement of the overall goals of the European Union's transport policy, such as decarbonisation, digitalisation and deployment of innovative solutions.*

*The Commission agrees that the designation of the single competent authority should be in line with the national legal frameworks and the appropriate administrative set-ups. With this proposal, the intention of the Commission is not to deprive the authorities involved in these procedures of their competences and tasks but to organise the whole process better and provide for a clear management of the overall permit granting in the case of trans-European transport core network projects.*

*The Commission would like to stress that the measures it proposed target the trans-European transport core network, whose transnational and European-wide importance is clear. Only by delivering the whole trans-European transport network can the European Union gain all of its benefits, which also requires that all parts of the network are treated with appropriate attention.*

*Furthermore, the Commission would like to assure the Bundestag that it is not its intention to initiate radical changes of the permit granting procedures in Member States. The establishment of the single competent authority should reduce the complexity, increase efficiency and increase the transparency of the procedures.*

*In some Member States, these permit granting procedures are already integrated and centralised with one competent body acting as a leader for the whole process while*

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*safeguarding the competences of other players by means of binding opinions which feed into the whole process. This also explains the Commission's choice for the instrument of a Regulation that would not require transposition measures when the national organisation is already compliant. The management of the permit granting procedures can also be delegated at regional level or on a modal basis; such a possibility was specifically designed to meet the needs of States with federal structure or devolved administrations.*

*The Commission would also like to draw the attention of the Bundestag to the streamlined permit procedures which are already applicable for the Projects of Common Interest in the energy sector, as provided for by Chapter III of the relevant Regulation<sup>1</sup>. This legislative act, in force since 2013, contains similar measures applied in the case of permit granting procedures for the project of common interest in the energy sector. They are similar to those proposed in the transport sector, and have proven to be effective. According to recent assessments, the expected time for clearing the permit granting procedures for energy transmission projects has been brought down from 10 years to 3.5 years<sup>2</sup>.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Bundestag and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, (EC) No 714/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009

<sup>2</sup> Commission Staff Working Document Accompanying the document Commission Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Union list of projects of common interest, SWD(2017) 425 final, based on the report of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators