



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 28 Jun 2011  
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*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Czech Senate for its analysis of the Communication concerning the development of a Single European Railway Area [COM(2010)474]. It notes that the analysis is based on a reading of both the Communication and the legislative proposal on the establishment of a Single European Railway Area [COM(2010)475] attached.*

*The Commission is pleased to note that the Senate of the Czech Republic supports the Commission's efforts to create a Single European Railway Area.*

*Regarding the publication of multiannual infrastructure development strategies by Member States, the Commission underlines that this new obligation would be subject to a transition period of two years after the entry into force of the Directive. The publication of such a strategy would not necessarily imply the allocation by Member States of additional financial resources for the railway infrastructure. It would mainly constitute a medium to long term planning instrument to clarify the role of rail in the national and European transport system.*

*Regarding the modulation of infrastructure charges on the basis of the noise performance of trains, the Commission draws the attention of the Czech Senate to the fact that such a measure would become compulsory only once a similar measure is introduced in EU law for the road freight sector, ensuring thereby convergence among transport modes. The Commission proposal does not define the type of modulation to be implemented. It would allow systems based on a reduction of charges for silent trains or bonus / malus systems which would not impact negatively on the competitiveness of the rail sector.*

*The Commission proposal does not foresee large scale post-legislative powers for the Commission. It is based on the existing directives which already provide for amendments of annexes by the Commission, assisted by a committee composed of Member State representatives.*

*I hope that these replies address the comments raised in the opinion submitted by the Czech Senate.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Mr. Milan Štěch  
President of the Senate  
of the Parliament of the Czech Republic  
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