



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 1.8.2013
C(2013) 5055 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Communication of the Commission on the Implementation of the European Electronic Toll Service {COM(2012) 474 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission agrees that the facilitation of road use charging, particularly across borders, is beneficial to road users and road operators alike, leading to more efficient utilisation of infrastructures and lower operating costs.

Pricing the use of infrastructure in a smart manner is one of the pillars of the European Union policy to make transport sustainable. Infrastructure charging is an appropriate solution for funding infrastructures as well as for managing transport demand, traffic, congestion and pollution. Electronic toll systems recently introduced or in development are all satellite-based, a solution which is necessary where scalability, ease of installation and a small environmental footprint are needed. The coming of age of Galileo, which performed its first ever position fix on the 12 March 2013, is very timely in this regard.

The Commission also agrees that stakeholders need a stable legal framework for deciding on investment and business options with long-term impacts. Care is taken that legislative initiatives, if any, take into account existing situations and the opinion of stakeholders.

An initiative that would facilitate the deployment of fair and efficient road pricing is being considered.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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