



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2022) 5498 final*

*Mr Miloš VYSTRČIL
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council — Extension of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) to neighbouring third countries {COM(2021) 820 final}.

The Communication addresses the vision of the Commission for extending the TEN-T to neighbouring countries. The Communication outlines how to address common challenges with acceding and neighbourhood countries and how the European Union, in the future, will cooperate with these partners in the field of TEN-T policy, in particular as regards the future development of interoperability of neighbouring country networks with the TEN-T network. The Communication sets out measures to complete the extension of the TEN-T network in these countries.

The Commission welcomes the recognition by the Senát of the wider political and strategic significance of the TEN-T policy in relation to neighbouring countries. The Commission shares the view of the Senát that the policy functions as a means of fostering the mobility of people, ensuring connectivity and securing the continuity of trade routes.

Indicative maps of the TEN-T extended to specific neighbouring countries are provided in the annex of the Commission proposal for the TEN-T Regulation¹. The indicative TEN-T has been extended to:

- the European Economic Area and European Free Trade Association²;*
- the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia)³;*

¹ COM(2021) 812 final

² Commission Delegated Regulation 2016/758 of 4 February 2016 amending Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards adapting Annex III thereto, OJ L 126, 14.5.2016, p. 3.

- *the Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus⁴, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine)⁵*;
- *Turkey: the comprehensive network of Turkey as incorporated in Regulation (EU) No 1315/20136 ('the TEN-T Regulation')*.

Following requests from the neighbouring countries, Ukraine, Georgia and the Western Balkans, the Commission is in the process of adapting the indicative TEN-T maps for these countries.

The recent developments in security policy, namely the aggression of Russia against Ukraine, might have an influence on the on-going negotiations of the TEN-T Regulation between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission, for example with regard to the further development of connectivity between the European Union TEN-T and the indicative TEN-T of third countries.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the Institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Senát in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Adina-Ioana Vălean
Member of the Commission*

* This reference is without prejudice to the status of Kosovo and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on Kosovo declaration of independence.

³ Commission Delegated Regulation 2016/758 of 4 February 2016 amending Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards adapting Annex III thereto, OJ L 126, 14.5.2016, p. 3.

⁴ Participation currently suspended by the Belarussian authorities.

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation 2019/254 of 9 November 2018 on the adaptation of Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, OJ L 43, 14.2.2019, p. 1.

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and repealing Decision No 661/2010/EU, OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 1.