



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank you very much for the Folketing's Opinion on the "White Paper on Transport – Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area" {COM(2011) 144 final} and apologises for the delay in replying to this Opinion.

Climate change, rising oil prices and increased congestion can have significant effects on transport and welfare and need to be addressed by an ambitious transport policy. The European Commission finds it encouraging that the Folketing not only agrees on the major challenges confronting the transport sector but also on the strategy outlined in the White Paper and the central role of common European legislation and of the European Union in this process.

Maintaining and developing the achievements of the Single Market is central for economic growth. Developing a sustainable transport system is absolutely necessary in this process. A key characteristic of the transport system of the future will be full modal integration. We need to develop a multimodal TEN-T core network, encompassing a multimodal traffic management and information system, common principles for passenger rights in all modes, mobility continuity plans in times of crisis, carbon footprint calculators and urban mobility plans that look at the transport system as a whole.

Transforming the strategy of the White Paper into concrete policy requires the adoption of legislative proposals. The White Paper contains 40 actions, most of which will be developed in this decade and supported by legislative proposals. The Commission is now starting to put forward the proposals which it has been developing through extensive stakeholder consultation. To ensure the quality of the proposed legislation, a test for subsidiarity and proportionality is systematically undertaken. The current Danish presidency will therefore play an essential role in the implementation of the White Paper.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue on these important issues.

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President

Hr. Thor PEDERSEN
Formand for Folketinget
Christiansborg
DK – 1240 COPENHAGEN