



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission welcomes the favourable opinion of the IXth and XIVth Committees of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic on the Green Paper on TEN-T: A policy review towards a better integrated transeuropean transport network at the service of the common transport policy {COM(2009)44} and thanks for their support for its current efforts in the TEN-T policy review.

Based on the Green Paper "Towards a better integrated trans-European transport network at the service of the common transport policy" and the strong support both of stakeholders and European institutions, the Commission has launched a process to further develop the dual layer TEN-T, comprising a comprehensive network and a core network.

The Commission, supported by six expert groups, is developing a rational and transparent methodology for planning of a multimodal, coherent core network, comprising the strategically most important nodes and links throughout Europe and connected to the corresponding links in neighbouring countries and regions. This methodology will be based on criteria which reflect, in a balanced way, the objectives of the Treaty and the principles of sustainability.

The core network shall be determined according to the needs of the Community and aim at enhancing European added value, to allow deriving infrastructure projects top-down from the network level.

This methodology shall be published in May 2010 in the framework of a Communication.

Only in the following step, real network planning will be carried out, applying this methodology as the basis. In order to secure continuity of investments, particular consideration will be given to existing priority projects. This process shall be concluded in a proposal of the Commission, as the basis of the corresponding decisions of Parliament and Council.

Bearing this in mind, it would be premature to comment on specific links or axes, already at this time. However, the Commission can assure that all relevant or proposed network elements will be scrutinized against equal criteria set up in the methodology.

Mr Gianfranco FINI
President of the Chamber of Deputies
Italy

Considerations regarding the future funding instruments will be carried out simultaneously and in accordance with the planning procedure. As one may assume that EU funds will be scarce also in the future, it is the goal to maximize their efficiency in the sense of enhancing their European added value and their leverage effect.

I look forward to continuing this fruitful exchange of information,

Yours sincerely,

Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission