



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.2.2019  
C(2019) 1050 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for the Opinion on the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the Action Plan on Military Mobility {JOIN(2018) 5 final}.*

*As the Camera dei Deputati notes in its Opinion, the Action Plan, framed within the context of recent European Union initiatives to strengthen European cooperation in the defence sector, identifies a series of actions at both the European and Member State level in order to improve military mobility.*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera dei Deputati to this Action Plan and agrees that adequate funding for dual-use infrastructure should be ensured within the framework of the European Union's budget with reference to the proposal to renew the Connecting Europe Facility for the period of 2021-2027. It also agrees that security and environmental sustainability aspects should be properly evaluated in the context of infrastructure development.*

*Delays in cross border transport of military goods are indeed caused by the divergence between the rules governing transport of civilian and military dangerous goods, as currently transport of dangerous civilian goods is governed by rules established within the framework of international conventions, while the rules concerning transport of dangerous military goods are defined at the national level. The Commission agrees that the alignment of national rules applicable to military forces with the existing legislation at Union's level could increase safety and provide synergies and coherence with regards to transport of dangerous military goods, without weakening civilian standards.*

*The Commission also shares the Camera dei Deputati's view that close cooperation among Member States is of utmost importance in order to implement the Action Plan and that the sovereignty of the Member States over their national territory and national decision-making processes regarding military movements must be fully respected.*

*Mr Roberto FICO  
President of the  
Camera dei Deputati  
Piazza Montecitorio  
IT – 00100 ROME*

*The Commission takes note of the Camera dei Deputati's observations regarding the obsolescence of many of the Italian motorway network's overpasses and their inability to support exceptional traffic loads such as those of military nature, and the need to plan for ongoing development on the basis of different objective needs in the completion of the four Trans-European Core Network Corridors passing through Italy. It also takes note of the request that mechanisms should be put in place to link funding related to cross-border movements to the adoption of actions agreed between Member States; and that the European Defence Agency's project on the authorisation of cross-border movements of military assets and materiel should take into account national regulatory restrictions of Member States so as to improve military mobility at the national level.*

*Finally, the Commission would like to inform the Camera dei Deputati that the Military requirements for military mobility, which are referred to in the Communication, have been finalised by the Council. The next steps will be taken on this basis, including the comparative analysis with the trans-European transport network parameters and the geographical coverage, as well as the definition of dual-use investments.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc  
Member of the Commission*