



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal amending Directive 92/106/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States {COM(2017) 648 final}.

As the Assembleia da República notes in its Opinion, the aim of this proposal is to support low-emission mobility and the efforts to move towards "a resilient Energy Union with a forward looking climate change policy". In proposing these amendments, the Commission wishes to improve the clarity and enforceability of the Directive and provide additional motivation for operators to shift from long distance road transport to intermodal transport.

As established in the REFIT evaluation of the Directive in 2015, the Directive has greatly contributed to the development of intermodal transport in the European Union, but would benefit from an update to further improve its effectiveness. Unfortunately and even though the use of combined transport has grown by 3,5% a year, there is still a large imbalance in the use of the different transport modes, with road transport predominant in the freight transport market. A greater use of multimodality would help reducing the negative impact of transport in terms of greenhouse gas emission, accidents, air pollution and congestion.

The Commission's assessment of the impacts of the proposed amendments shows that with these additional measures, the European Union would be able to reach the modal shift target for 2030 as established in the Transport White Paper of 2011 and this in return would contribute to achieving the wider climate and environmental targets sets by the European Union and its Member States.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Assembleia da República for the proposal and its objectives and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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First Vice-President*

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Member of the Commission*

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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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