



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Mr Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA
President
Chamber of Deputies
Palace of the Parliament
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5
RO – BUCHAREST

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputatilor for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the Trans-European Transport Network {COM(2011) 650 final}.

The implementation of the core and comprehensive transport network with appropriate dimensions and characteristics aims at allowing the seamless and sustainable mobility of persons and goods, ensuring accessibility for all regions of the Union and, in general, strengthening economic and social cohesion. However, the issues of population expansion in urban areas and sustainable urban growth are beyond the scope of this proposal.

The Commission has analysed in detail how increased cooperation between Member States would lead to streamlining of project preparation and implementation¹. The limited increase in administrative costs for corridor coordination and monitoring would be counterbalanced by the significant benefits of the proper and timely implementation of projects on the corridor.

The Commission believes that cross-border projects demonstrate genuine European added value. At the same time, the Commission is aware of the fact that, in some cases, direct economic effects may be lower, at least temporarily, since traffic flows in cross-border routes may be lower than between two cities in a Member State.

As to the concerns expressed by the Camera Deputatilor on provisions such as Article 14, as well as on the deadlines for putting in place the Core Network, the Commission is aware that they have been also raised in the Council, which has agreed a General Approach on the proposed TEN-T guidelines on 22 March 2012. The European Parliament is currently examining the proposal of the Commission in view of finalising its position early next year.

The Commission would like to point out that Romania has a quite extensive Core Network, where projects are eligible for financing by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Also rail projects on the corridor 4, IWW projects on corridor 10 and rail projects pre-identified in Annex 1 of the CEF (Timisoara-Serbian border, Arad-Bucharest-Brasov) are eligible for

¹ [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/doc/sec\(2011\)_1212_final_2.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/doc/sec(2011)_1212_final_2.pdf)

increased co-financing from the EUR 10 billion envelope of the CEF. The Commission believes that on this basis Romania would be able to receive financing reflecting in the best possible way the country envelope as defined for the Cohesion Fund, for projects which constitute the main national and European priorities, provided that a number of mature projects are proposed for financing and that project implementation is progressing normally.

The Commission identified corridors on the basis of the traffic flows and in order to include the more important cross-border projects, as well as the current Priority Projects and Rail Freight corridors.

The Commission would also like to emphasize that the Core Network has been identified according to an agreed methodology². The road Bors-Cluj-Turda could not be included in the Core Network because it did not fulfil the conditions of the methodology. However, the section Turda-Targu-Mures-Iasi-Ungheni has now been included in the Core Network.

In case of delays, no legally binding measures or financial penalties are envisaged. Instead, the Commission aims at carefully examining the reasons for the delays with the parties involved, in order to find the appropriate ways to accelerate the implementation of the delayed projects.

The Commission is convinced that sufficient resources from the Cohesion Fund and Structural Funds are allocated to Member States in the periphery of the EU under the Commission's proposals. The Commission is committed to optimise the coordination of all available EU funding sources, including CEF, Cohesion Fund and Structural Funds in particular.

I hope that these clarifications address the observations and suggestions made by the Camera Deputatilor and I look forward to continuing our dialogue on these important issues.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

² http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/doc/web_methodology.pdf