



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Mr Forsberg,

The European Commission would like to thank the Swedish Parliament for having examined the Green Paper "A Policy Review: Towards a better integrated trans-European transport networks (TEN-T)" {COM(2009)44} and for having provided its opinion on the issue. This opinion constitutes valuable input to the consultation process and will be examined in depth.

The Commission welcomes the fact that the Committee shares its view that in order to be able to respond to both the need for efficient and competitive transport services and to contribute to climate change objectives, the TEN-T policy needs to emphasize the role of transport infrastructure "at the service of transport services". To achieve this goal, the integration of the network (combination of modes, optimal inter-modal connection, and integration of intelligent transport systems to ensure efficient infrastructure use) should be strengthened. This shall facilitate co-modal services for passengers and freight, based on the comparative advantages of each transport mode.

As the honourable members of the Committee rightly pointed out, the fight against climate change could raise the question on how to adapt new and existing TEN-T infrastructure to the possible consequences of climate change (such as rising sea levels or changing heat patterns). Climate change objectives should thus be put at the centre of the future TEN-T policy and require a genuine European approach.

The Commission fully agrees with the honourable members of the Committee, that the growing international role of the Community in political and economical terms requires better infrastructure links with Europe's neighbours and the wider world.

The Commission also notes that the Committee has a clear preference for the dual layer structure with the comprehensive network and a core network, comprising a – geographically defined – priority network and a conceptual pillar to help integrate the various transport policy and transport infrastructure aspects.

Mr Anders Forsberg
Secretary-General of the Riksdag

At this stage, the review of the TEN-T policy does not envisage the integration of new projects within the current list of Priority Projects. The Green Paper publication simply constitutes the first milestone of a broad review process of the TEN-T policy. It sets out policy options which shall be analysed in more detail throughout 2009. A legislative proposal on the TEN-T Guidelines could follow in 2010. Thus, any proposal to review the list of projects is premature at the present time but could if appropriate be assessed in the upcoming review of the TEN-T Guidelines.

Yours sincerely

Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission