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Dear Mr Forsberg,

On behalf of the European Commission, I would like to thank the Committee on Transport and Communications of the Swedish Parliament for the comments and observations made on the Commission Communication: "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system" {COM(2009)279}.

We have noted that on substantial parts of the policy issues touched upon in the Communication there is a common understanding between the Committee and the Commission. That goes for the identified trends and challenges as well as for the major elements of a sustainable transport policy. We of course fully share your view that subsidiarity and proportionality should be guiding principles when designing policy instruments to meet the challenges, together with a thorough evaluation of policies already in place.

In some areas the Committee has recommendations which elaborate on some of the principles outlined in the Communication. That goes for the recommendation that the existing infrastructure and the infrastructure to come shall be made climate proof. Another valuable suggestion is the four stage planning model for investment in infrastructure and supporting an efficient use of existing infrastructure. In this respect we have also noted with interest the creation of Trafikverket, an integrated authority with responsibility for planning, investment and maintenance within all modes.

A further consideration which we would share is that even though technology is of utmost importance in meeting the challenges of transport sector it has to be supplemented with economic instruments and an increased support to research and development.

Mr Anders Forsberg
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We have also noted the recommendation that a common and sustainable transport policy should take the different conditions prevailing in EU Member States into account.

Your contribution is much appreciated and will help the Commission in formulating the policy proposals that will be part of the forthcoming White Paper on transport.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission