



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 7.9.2018
C(2018)5890 final*

Dear Speaker,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Reasoned Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on streamlining measures for advancing the realisation of the trans-European transport network {COM (2018) 277 final}.

The Commission appreciates that the Riksdag welcomes the aim of this proposal, which is to support the efficient and timely implementation of the trans-European transport core network. The quick delivery of high-quality and state-of-the-art transport infrastructure of importance for the European Union is a pre-requisite for the achievement of the overall goals of the European Union's transport policy, such as decarbonisation, digitalisation and deployment of innovative solutions.

The Commission has taken good note of the Riksdag's concerns as regards the proposal's compliance with the subsidiarity principle.

The Commission agrees that the trans-European transport core network includes the national transport networks and thus that the Member States remain the key actors for the implementation of projects and their authorisations. As rightly pointed out by the Riksdag, any action at European Union level should not exceed what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties. In this respect, the measures proposed by the Commission target the trans-European transport core network, whose transnational and European-wide importance is clear. Only by delivering the whole trans-European transport core network, the European Union can reap all the benefits of the network, which means that all parts of the network have to be treated with appropriate attention.

*Mr Urban AHLIN
Speaker of the Riksdag
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The Commission would like to reassure the Riksdag that it is not the Commission's intention to initiate radical changes of the permit granting procedures in Member States where they work efficiently and effectively. In many cases, these procedures are already integrated and centralised with one competent body acting as a leader for the whole process, while safeguarding the competences of other players by means of binding opinions which feed into the whole process. This also explains the Commission's choice for the instrument of a Regulation that would not require transposition measures when the national organisation is already compliant.

Nevertheless, the Commission sees added value in promoting and extending these good practices and concepts across the European Union. The purpose is to incentivise changes and reforms in Member States that face more problems and delays in this field and ensure a more coherent approach across Member States. The initiative is expected to benefit the whole European Union, as the network effect will also positively contribute to neighbouring Member States.

Furthermore, the Commission would point out that the perception of national authorities may be different than the perception of other stakeholders. The Commission carried out an extensive consultation with different types of stakeholders prior to presenting its proposal. According to the views expressed by many project promoters, they are still confronted with complex procedures with multiple stages and duplications of efforts.

The Commission would also like to draw the Riksdag's attention to the streamlined permit granting procedures which are already applicable for Projects of Common Interest in the energy sector, as provided for by the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure¹. This piece of legislation, in force since 2013, contains measures applied in the case of permit granting procedures for the project of common interest in the energy sector similar to those proposed in the transport sector, and has proven to be quite effective. According to recent assessments, in terms of energy transmission projects the expected time for clearing the permit granting procedures has been brought down from 10 to 3.5 years².

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Riksdag and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Member of the Commission

¹ Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, (EC) No 714/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009.

² Commission Staff Working Document Accompanying the Commission Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Union list of projects of common interest, SWD(2017) 425 final, based on the report of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.