

Brussels, 12 NOV. 2009
C(2009) 312

Lord Roper
Chairman of the European Union Select Committee
House of Lords
Palace of Westminster
UK-London SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Roper,

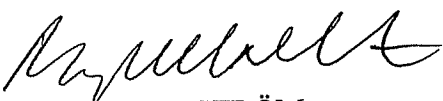
Thank you very much for transmitting to the Commission the report of the House of Lords European Union Committee on the Recast of the First Railway Package {COM(2008)852}.

This report provides a number of interesting and useful conclusions for the ongoing work of the Commission on the Recast of the First Package. At the moment, the Commission is working on the preparation of such a proposal. Therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to comment on details of the proposal.

We take good note of the conclusions in your report. In particular, the House of Lords advocates full separation of infrastructure managers from railway undertakings and the strengthening of powers of national regulators. We are also interested in the House of Lords' proposal to include mandatory definitions on cost categories to be taken into account for infrastructure charging, and to give power to the regulators to control access to rail-related services.

The House of Lords also recommends to the Commission to proceed with infringement procedures where it has grounds, in parallel with the recast. On this issue, the Commission has decided on 8 October to send reasoned opinions relating to the implementation of the First Railway Package to those Member States which still did not implement all provisions of this Package. I can therefore assure you that the Commission will continue its enforcement of the Community legislation in the railway sector in order to remove obstacles to competition and to create a truly European market for railway transport services.

Yours sincerely,


Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission