



21 October 2011

MEETING BETWEEN EUROPEAN COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT SIIM KALLAS AND BUSINESSEUROPE DIRECTOR GENERAL PHILIPPE DE BUCK 21 OCTOBER 2011

General remarks

- Transport (all modes) is an essential component of the European internal market and it is a sector where Europe is a world leader. Not only does the sector directly employ around 10 million people in the EU and account for about 5% of GDP, it is also an indispensable pillar of the economy as a whole. Further integrating the internal market for transport can contribute to growth and jobs;
- The liberalisation of transport markets within the EU has significantly contributed to the development of a prosperous single market but further efforts are needed. In particular more and better enforcement of legislation is needed to guarantee competition and fair access to networks such as railway networks;
- We recognise the contribution of the transport sector to European carbon emissions (the sector is responsible for a quarter of EU emissions of CO₂) but care is needed in choosing the type of initiatives to reduce transport emissions;
- The different transport modes should be seen as complementary to each other and efforts are needed to make all modes more efficient;

The White Paper on the future of Transport

- BUSINESSEUROPE supports the overall objective of the White Paper to achieve sustainable transport and welcomes the Commission's view that reducing mobility is not an option. However, the lack of cost-benefit analysis and implementation strategies with regard to the various targets that have been set out to achieve transport emissions reduction is of concern;



- The further development of sustainable transport requires a mix of initiatives to work in combination with each other (e.g. relating to infrastructure, transport vehicles and equipment, ICT solutions, administrative procedures...);
- We strongly support the Commission's objective for the next decade to create a genuine Single European Transport area by eliminating remaining barriers. Further efforts are needed, especially in rail;
- It is necessary to ensure that all modes of transport increase efficiency;
- Investment in infrastructure should be increased and be more prominent in policy-making. In this context, we welcome the transport related part of the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020, 'the Connecting Europe Facility' which altogether allocates 31.7 billion EUR for transport projects;
- The development of technological solutions and the application of Information and Communication Technologies, including Intelligent Transport Systems, to transport will be essential to tackle transport challenges for sustainable transport;
- We support further efforts to reduce administrative burdens and improve legislation. For instance, at the moment companies using their vehicles across borders face different laws and procedures in each country, which creates unnecessary costs;
- It is important to further pursue the opening up of transport markets to free competition and environmentally friendly solutions and to continue to aim at greater market access in transport in all relevant international negotiations. In addition, in the effort to cut CO₂ emissions Europe should aim for an international regulatory approach.

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