



Mr Siim Kallas  
Commissioner for Transport  
European Commission  
200, rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels

13 September 2010

Dear Commissioner,

We are writing to you in response to the public consultation on the future trans-European transport network (TEN-T) policy.

BUSINESSEUROPE believes that the TEN-T remains the physical backbone of the Single Market. We are actively following this issue and submitted a detailed position paper in April 2009 in response to the Green Paper on the future development of the TEN-T. At annex you will find a copy of this position paper, which outlines key principles on the future development of the TEN-T that remain valid in our opinion.

In addition, we would like to add some comments to the latest consultation paper. BUSINESSEUROPE believes that a good quality transport infrastructure that is equipped to meet demand for all modes and for intermodal connections is an essential element of the EU's overall competitiveness and will have a key role in the achievement of the EU 2020 strategy.

We are pleased that the results to last year's Green Paper show support for the development of an integrated transport network containing a core network that would provide for all transport modes and constitute the necessary infrastructure basis for the implementation of European transport policy objectives.

With regard to the planning of the core network BUSINESSEUROPE supports a core network that is made up of nodes and links of the highest strategic and economic importance throughout the EU and a network that will link East and West, old and new Member States. In particular, proper interconnections between the main European ports and airports to the other networks should be ensured.

In this context, BUSINESSEUROPE supports the stated principles for designing the TEN-T, stressing that the most important among these should be the improvement of the efficiency of international transport in the European Union. The deployment of European interoperable intelligent transport systems to enhance safe and efficient use of infrastructures is to be part of it.

With regard to TEN-T implementation, we believe that firm solutions to problems should remain very high on the future TEN-T agenda and that the completion of previously decided projects should be pushed. BUSINESSEUROPE regrets that only 5 of the 30 priority projects have been completed at the end of 2009.



More specifically, BUSINESSEUROPE has the following comments with regard to financing solutions:

- An adequate EU budget is a necessary precondition for the implementation of the TEN-T and should therefore be secured in the next financial perspectives 2014-2020;
- We agree with the development of fair, transparent and efficient criteria to identify the projects to be supported, depending on the European added value of the project and support an integrated European funding framework to coordinate available EU funding for transport, including TEN-T budget and Structural Funds;
- EU financial support should remain concentrated on cross-border projects;
- Public-private partnerships (PPP) can help to mobilise more financial resources, introduce more efficiency and enable a faster and more flexible delivery of the implementation works. In this context, it would be important to define what kind of projects would particularly benefit most from their use;
- We support a prominent role for the EIB in funding the TEN-T, making use of their expertise for project-assessment, provided that it is ensured that their lending is also directed to financially and economically viable projects, reflecting the right priorities for Europe's competitiveness;
- BUSINESSEUROPE would like to see an improvement of the current regulatory and financial framework for the concession of grants, based on better harmonisation and simplification of internal procedures for the selection, monitoring and financial support of projects, both at EU and national level.

We look forward to contributing to the Commission's proposal for new TEN-T guidelines in the first half of 2011 and remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss these comments further.

Yours sincerely,

*Best regards,*

Philippe de Buck

Encl.: BUSINESSEUROPE response to the European Commission Green Paper 'TEN-T: A Policy Review'