



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Minister

Michalis Chrysochoidis
Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks

Your ref

Our ref

Date:

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Railway package IV - Norwegian positions

I am writing to you in your capacity of holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union. I would like to thank you for our meeting on the 10th of December in Athens. I very much enjoyed hearing about your priorities during your Presidency this spring, and our discussions regarding Railway package IV.

As you know Norway is an integral part of the EU Internal Market through the European Economic Area (EEA)-agreement. The EEA EFTA States (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) participate in the Internal Market on the basis of their implementation of Internal Market relevant acquis. All new relevant Community legislation is dynamically incorporated into the Agreement and thus applies throughout the EEA, ensuring the homogeneity of the Internal Market. Hence, Railway package IV legislative proposals are of direct relevance to Norway.

Generally speaking, Norway supports the need for improving the competitiveness and performance of rail transport, and thus facilitate a modal shift from road to rail. We also recognize the need for decreasing administrative burdens for railway undertakings and infrastructure managers through measures for simplification and harmonization.

I am satisfied with the agreement reached in the Council concerning the two proposals in the technical part of the package. Both the possibility for railway undertakings to choose, in special cases, whether ERA or the National Safety Authorities should handle applications for safety certificate, and to approve rolling stock.

However, we would like to propose some changes to the proposal for a regulation on the European Railway Agency, ERA. The cooperation between ERA and the National Safety Authorities should be clarified in the ERA-regulation, as this will give the applicants better

predictability and a more transparent application process, including enhancing equal treatment of the applicants, regardless of their nationality.

Enclosed you will find a note with the Norwegian positions regarding the proposal for a new Regulation on the European Union Agency for Railways. I hope our positions will be taken into account in your further work with the legislative proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Ketil Solvik-Olsen

Enclosures

Copy:
Council Secretariat