



VIOLETA BULC

Member of the European Commission

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6269132

Mr Shane ROSS T.D.
Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport
Leeson Lane,
Dublin 2,
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IRELAND

Dear Minister,

Thank you very much for your letter of 9 August 2019 outlining the project Ireland 2040 and the links to the EU's TEN-T policy and its ongoing review process.

As you know the European transport sector is facing many challenges and is undergoing a rapid transformation process. Climate Change, an aging society and Brexit require a forward-looking approach to TEN-T policy, which better integrates new developments in areas such as alternative fuels, automation or digitalisation and aims at facilitating sustainable service chains for passengers and freight with the final aim to ensure connectivity for all European regions.

It is for these reasons that we have decided, as announced at the Informal Council in Bucharest in March this year, to advance the review of the Regulation on Union Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (Regulation (EU) N° 1315/2013). This involves, as an integral part, the obligations under Article 54 of this Regulation, namely to carry out a review of the core network. It will analyse to what extent the TEN-T Guidelines as a whole are still fit for purpose and what adjustments may be needed to cope with the new challenges.

.../...

The review process has been launched with an evaluation study in April 2019. Within its scope, an open public consultation has been held between April and July, resulting in over 600 responses and an additional 200 position papers. Beginning in the fourth quarter 2019, a series of targeted stakeholder consultations will be undertaken also seeking the feedback from the national ministries. We aim to present preliminary findings of this evaluation process at the TEN-T days, which will be held from 13-15 May 2020 in Croatia. A more comprehensive Staff Working Document is foreseen for Summer 2020.

Depending on the findings of this first step of the review process, an impact assessment and legislative proposal could follow in 2021.

I can assure you that concerns and the specificities of the Irish situation will be fully taken into account in the review process and that the European Commission will do its utmost to ensure that Ireland remains fully connected to the TEN-T network also in the future. The Commission is therefore ready in this context to cooperate very closely with the Irish authorities.

Yours sincerely,



Violeta BULC