



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

The Director-General

Brussels, **09 JUL 2013**
MOVE B2/OC/sy Ares (2013)

Mr Kalevi Kämäräinen
Mr Juha P. Korhonen
kalevi.kamarainen@gmail.com

Dear Mr Kämäräinen,

Dear Mr Korhonen,

Thank you for your letter of 31 May 2013 containing the position of the Finnish Rail Passengers' association on the market access pillar of the 4th Railway Package, which was adopted by the European Commission on 30 January 2013.

I would like to thank your association for its support regarding the Commission's proposals in the 4th Railway Package, which are currently under discussion at the European Parliament and at the Council. These discussions may highlight elements of the proposals which could still be improved and fine-tuned.

The proposals strike the balance between the possibility to develop new business opportunities and to ensure the continuity of organising public rail transport under financially compensated public service obligations (which, in Finland, only represent some 15% of all passenger-kilometres). By introducing competitive tendering of public service contracts, the proposals also seek to improve the efficiency of public spending in the rail sector.

I would like to confirm that the Commission proposals in the 4th railway package are not taking as a reference the dense rail networks in Central and Western Europe. They are based on thorough impact assessments that have taken into consideration the experience of a very broad number of EU Member States, including sparsely populated and geographically remote Member States.

It is important to underline that specific provisions have been added to specifically remedy the potentially slower development of leasing of rolling stock in Member States whose rail network is isolated geographically and/or having different technical parameters (e.g. track gauge), as the legislative proposal gives the competent authorities the possibility to require transfer of rolling stock to the next operator.

My services would also like to thank you for all the technical information that you provide as regards the Finnish railway system.

Yours sincerely,

Matthias RUETE