

Sim Kallas
Vice-President and Commissioner for Transport
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

1 February 2011

Dear Vice-President,

The signatories of this letter would like to share their views and expectations regarding the future transport policy and in particular on the possible place of the European Modular System (EMS) within this policy.

Since the consultation on the Future of the European Transport Policy which started 18 months ago the European economy has gone through a period of economic instability. Industry across Europe has suffered from the global recession and no doubt it will take some years yet to recover to the levels of growth witnessed prior to the financial melt-down of September 2008.

Although a renewed economic vitality has taken root over the last few months, the focus of many is falling on cost savings through improved service performance and increasing supply chain efficiency. At the same time the European industry is being confronted with serious challenges such as climate change and the Europe 2020 agenda which drives us towards a resource efficient and low carbon economy.

We maintain that efficiency, sustainability and transport optimization should drive future transport policy and we hope that these principles as they relate to freight transport will be encapsulated in the forthcoming White Paper and the Revised Logistics Action Plan.

It has been recognised that road freight options are likely to continue to dominate in terms of market share for quite some time due to a combination of their flexibility, competitiveness, the geography of Europe and the characteristics of the goods and supply chains.

Therefore the pressure remains to ensure that road freight is allowed to develop more efficient ways of operating, even if this leads to increased weights and dimensions, in order to optimize their payload, and reduce the number of trucks and trips required when meeting the transport demand. The wider and international application of EMS in road freight will contribute to the improved efficiency and reduced environmental impact through increased fuel efficiency and accompanying CO2 reductions. The signatories of this letter therefore welcome the fact that there is a growing recognition that road freight innovations can be to the benefit of the economy and the environment.

Additionally, if co-modal logistics solutions are to be facilitated with increased utilization of rail freight, it will be necessary to optimize the access to the rail network and combined transport facilities for other modes, such as road freight. This is best done in the most efficient way i.e. by using the EMS system and promoting co-modal logistics solutions.

In view of the upcoming White Paper on Transport Policy we trust that the role of the EMS in reducing CO2 emissions by optimizing road transportation is fully recognized, and its wider use in and between EU Member States is promoted either, and preferably, as fully operational solutions or through large scale national and cross border tests.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolette van der Jagt
Secretary General
European Shippers' Council

on behalf of the following associations:

