



Press Release 18.06.2008

EIM congratulates Antonio Tajani on confirmation as EU Transport Commissioner

EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, warmly welcomes the European Parliament's decision to confirm Antonio Tajani as the new EU Transport Commissioner, and looks forward to working with him to promote sustainable mobility in the European Union.

Following a strong performance at a hearing in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Monday evening, Antonio Tajani has today been officially confirmed as the new Vice-President of the European Commission with responsibility for Transport.

EIM welcomes the positive message Mr. Tajani put forward during his hearing on creating a strong, sustainable transport policy for Europe, and particularly appreciates his commitment to continue with the important rail policy initiatives set out by his predecessor Vice-President Jacques Barrot.

This commitment is of great importance in regards to the timing of the Greening Transport package. This package, which is to be presented on 8 July, will propose revisions to the Eurovignette Directive that will allow Member States to implement the "polluter pays" principle when setting road infrastructure charges. This initiative is vital to reducing transport's climate change impact and ensuring a level playing field between the transport modes.

EIM is also heartened by Mr. Tajani's statement that he would seek to promote the creation of trans-European rail freight corridors, in order to overcome the political and operational challenges that hamper the development of cross-border rail freight links. EIM fully supports the development of such corridors, and urges Mr. Tajani to take concrete steps to make funding available for such projects. In this context, the Vice-President's remarks on the usefulness of Public Private Partnerships in implementing Trans-European Transport Network projects are to be welcomed.

EIM Secretary General Michael Robson said, "I agree whole heartedly with Mr. Tajani's statement that "Without a strong transport policy, there is no united Europe." I look forward to working with the new Commissioner and his team to achieve this vision."



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[Notes to the Editor:](#)

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