

Press Release 11.07.07

European Parliament keeps its head despite terrorist threats against “*European critical infrastructure*”.

EIM welcomes the flexible and pragmatic approach of the European Parliament regarding the report drafted by Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert (ALDE, NL) on *Identification and Designation of **Priority Sectors** with European Critical Infrastructure*. Member States will now be responsible for providing a list of potential priority sectors. This will be more efficient than the notification of specific critical infrastructure initially foreseen by the Commission.

The Parliament also made sure that the EU approach is built on existing sector-specific protection measures, taking into account sector characteristics. This process will allow Member States to focus on appropriate measures in order to tackle potential dangers.

EIM particularly welcomes the amendments preventing duplication of regulation for sectors already covered by a series of measures identifying and protecting critical infrastructure. Besides, the directive will deal only with disruption affecting at least three Member States. In practical terms, this means that railway infrastructure will generally be exempted from the scope of the directive.

The establishment of an Operator Security Plan (OSP) and the designation of a Security Liaison Officer (SLO) have been dramatically simplified by the Parliament thereby paving the way for a smooth and efficient implementation of the Directive.

Michael Robson, Secretary General of EIM commented *“The Parliament has sent a strong message to the Council so that it would not lose sight of subsidiarity and proportionality principles even when threats to critical infrastructure are at stake. As mentioned by the rapporteur, attention should be paid to the “weakest link”, and not to the best protected infrastructures”.*

EIM calls on the Council to take the opinion of the Parliament into account to avoid unnecessary red tape for railway infrastructure. Michael Robson would like to remind the Council that *“European railway legislation on safety is already quite advanced. National legal*



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provisions on security are also developing. The focus should remain on their implementation and not on their duplication”.

Notes to the Editor:

For further information on EIM and its various positions:

<http://www.eimrail.org> and <http://www.eimrail.org/people.html>

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