

25 January 2013

OPEN LETTER

President José Manuel Barroso
European Commission
Berlaymont, Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Bruxelles
By e-mail: jose-manuel-barroso@ec.europa.eu

Dear President Barroso,

Concerns: 4th Railway Package to deliver on time in its most ambitious form

We are contacting you because we are extremely worried. Very recent rumors and declarations let us think that the Fourth railway package could be emptied of its core substance: the financial, economic and legal independence of the infrastructure manager. No regulation or regulatory body can ensure a more adequate market opening than the separated model. And European rail liberalization is more than necessary to the European economic growth.

Together with Vice-President Kallas, you and your services have taken courageous and unambiguous positions over the last days. ***The Fourth railway package has to be published as soon as possible and in its most ambitious form.*** It will anyhow be discussed and possibly amended during the normal European legislative process.

Sticking to the original objectives of the Fourth railway package is therefore a matter of European democracy. Short-circuiting the European Parliament in trying to block the publication of the Fourth Railway Package after it has been circulated amongst the Commissioners is indeed a major breach in the European democratic process. It is also a question of credibility for the Commission and of consistency with its policy in other network industries such as energy.

We realize the immense pressure that is being put on you and on Vice-President Kallas. We are therefore very grateful and supportive of your action.



François Coart
President