

Mr. Brian Simpson
Member of the European Parliament
Chairman of the Committee of transport and tourism

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Brussels, 07th August 2012

Dear Mr. Simpson,
Dear Chairman of the Committee of transport and tourism,

Your interview the DVZ of July 21 has raised some concerns amongst ERFA.

- The background of the rail market that you describe look to some extent fatalist regarding the liberalization process. EU must drive the changes that the Member States face difficulties to implement. How will Europe improve if MEP's accept non performing systems to continue?
- We respect that very powerful historic operators lobby MEP's as we do. We cannot accept that they became even more powerful that their own home state and put MEP's under such pressure that they cannot follow their convictions.
- ERFA was surprised by your statement saying that no results have been achieved regarding long distance rail freight transport. Liberalization has boosted volumes, in UK, Germany, Sweden and even in France where the liberalization rates now 20 % in 5 year, the level achieved in 20 years in Germany, it contributes to stabilise a market in a critical shape.
- What ERFA wants is just the all operators being able to access the market without any hints. We came to the conclusion that separation is the simplest and cheapest tool to achieve it.

We believe that the 4th railway package is a unique tool to make the system progressing. We enclose to this letter our view on the matter.

We are at a strategic time in the process of liberalizing the rail market, it why we would be pleased to meet you in order to share our views on the European future of rail freight and to be allowed to speak at your event of October 16.

Best regards,



François Coart
President