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Observations from an Industry Perspective on the 4th Railway Package

Industry is encouraged by the Commission's fourth railway package, particularly given the focus on enabling competition, investment and growth.

As a non-profit shipper-led forum representing shippers, ports, logistics service providers and specialist supply chain disciplines – all of whom have an interest in the rail sector - we make some observations.

A rail user's perspective considers the following issues important:

1. Define the separation between the infrastructure manager and railway undertakings. These are seen as two very distinct disciplines or activities. At the very minimum, a Chinese Wall is needed to ensure transparency and good governance.
2. Encourage competition at every level with respect to freight services.
3. Allow the European Rail Agency freedom to act in the interests of common European rail solutions.
4. Encourage co-operation between European infrastructure managers towards the goal of a totally integrated railway system throughout Europe.
5. Prioritise public money for infrastructure.
6. Consumers actually drive the demand for freight. If existing state-funded rolling stock is under-utilised then we could make these assets available to new entrants.
7. History tells us that new private sector entrants to the industry encourage innovation and growth.

These important issues are inter-related. It would make sense to retain them in one package if the maximum benefits from this initiative are to be realized.

The Governance pillar could be the catalyst to encourage a level playing field in the rail market and ensure fair competition above the tracks.

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THE EUROPEAN FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS LEADERS FORUM

About Us

- International non-profit forum flourishing since 1994.
- F&L is not a lobby group.
- Currently 67 corporate members from 17 Council of Europe 47 countries.
- Membership 27% shippers, 36% logistics service providers, 11% port related, 15% supply chain services (legal, insurance, consultancy, Associations), 5% public, 6% other including supply chain equipment.
- Board of Directors BACARDI, MARS, LYONDELL BASELL, CHEP, LKW-WALTER, UIRR (International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport).

Objective

F&L brings together logistics leaders from a range of industry sectors, legislative agencies and all modes of transport to debate and discuss global supply chain issues.

Members

Members are well-known companies including MARS, Procter & Gamble, Lyondell Basell, Bacardi, Bavaria, Cargill, various equipment manufacturers, KWS, Yara, Volvo, Stora Enso, SABIC, The Real Good Food Company, Metsa and RUUKI as well as ports, logistics service providers, insurance companies, legal firms and so on.