

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Cabinet of Commissioner Violeta BULC

Deputy Head of Cabinet

Brussels, **20 AVR. 2015**
DO/mh D(2015)1415868

Mr. Kalevi Kämäräinen
Chairman

Mr. Juha P. Korhonen
Vice chairman

By email only: kalevi.kamarainen@gmail.com

Dear Chairman Kalevi Kämäräinen and Vice Chairman Juha P. Korhonen,

Commissioner Violeta Bulc asked me to thank you for your letter dated from 26 February concerning Helsinki Rail Loop project. I understand the project is raising some concerns in Finland, as shown by your letter.

However, at this stage, the Commission cannot comment on the elements you are providing since the project was submitted to the Commission as part of the 2014 calls for proposal for projects on the Trans-European Network of Transport to receive co-funding from the European Union under the Connecting Europe Facility.

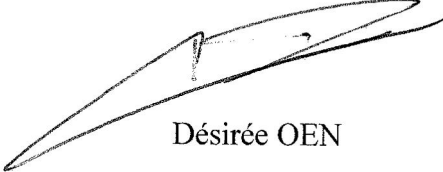
Independent external experts are currently in the process of analysing the project's quality, maturity, impact and the EU added value under the auspices of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) of the Commission. Once this phase is concluded, the Commission will then conduct its internal evaluation, and may decide whether or not to grant financial assistance to the project, on the basis of a cost-benefit analysis, the availability of Union budget resources and the need to maximise the leverage of Union funding.

For your information, the INEA has received more than 700 projects under this call for proposal, with a total demand for grants worth more than €36 billion, when the available budget is of €12 billion.

The project is also being discussed in the context of the Commission proposed Investment Plan and notably its European Fund for Strategic Investment, which is currently under legislative review by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. It would therefore be premature to comment on the possible co-financing of this project by the future Fund.

I take good note of your demand for access to documents; your demand has been registered – our reference Gestdem 2015/1762 – and my services will check if the documents submitted by the Finnish authorities to the 2014 calls can be made public after the completion of the evaluation, pending the agreement of the project promoter and the authorities, as per Article 4 of Regulation (EC) no 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized, elongated shape.

Désirée OEN