



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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COVER NOTE

from: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 6 July 2007

to: Mr Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General/High Representative

Subject: Communication from the Commission - Designation of European Coordinators
for certain trans-European transport network projects

Delegations will find attached Commission document C(2007) 3190 final.

Encl.: C(2007) 3190 final



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 5.7.2007
C(2007) 3190 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION

Designation of European Coordinators for certain trans-European transport network projects

COMMISSION DECISION

C(2007) 3190 of 5 July 2007

amending Decision C(2005) 2754 of 20 July 2005 designating six European Coordinators for certain trans-European transport network projects

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION

Designation of European Coordinators for certain trans-European transport network projects

Under Article 17a of Decision No 884/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, the Commission, in agreement with the Member States concerned, and after having consulted the European Parliament, may designate 'European Coordinators'. On 20 July 2005 the Commission made use of this possibility by designating the first six European Coordinators, including Ms Loyola de Palacio, in charge of priority project No 6 Lyon-Trieste-Divača/Koper-Ljubljana-Budapest, who sadly died in December 2006.

Given the importance of the above route, it was necessary to find someone with all the expertise required to continue the complex mission entrusted to Ms de Palacio.

1. Project concerned and the Coordinator's mission

The mission statement received by Ms de Palacio and the project for which she was responsible remain identical to those defined in the earlier decision:

Project	Sections concerned identified by Parliament and the Council (completion date set)
Priority project No 6 (Corridor V)	- Lyon-St Jean de Maurienne (2015)
“Lyon-Trieste-Divača/Koper-Divača-Ljubljana-Budapest-Ukranian border rail link”	- Mont Cenis Tunnel (2015-2017) - Bussoleno-Turin (2011) - Turin-Venice (2010) - Venice-Ronchi South-Trieste-Divača (2015) - Koper-Divača-Ljubljana (2015) - Ljubljana-Budapest (2015)

2. The Coordinator's profile

In accordance with the procedure provided for in the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004, the Commission designates the European Coordinators after consulting Parliament, and with the agreement of the Member States concerned.

The Commission consulted Parliament by an exchange of letters dated 26 April 2007 between Mr Barrot, Vice President of the Commission, and Mr Pöttering, President of the European Parliament. The Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) gave a favourable opinion, confirmed by the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament on 14 June. By letter of 22 June, Mr Pöttering communicated the favourable opinion of the European Parliament to the appointment of the new European Coordinator, to replace Ms Loyola de Palacio. The Member States concerned had already confirmed their agreement in writing.

Under Article 17(a)(2), as introduced by the above Decision of the Council and the Parliament, “the European Coordinator shall be chosen, in particular, on the basis of his/her experience of European institutions and knowledge of issues relating to the financing and the socio-economic and environmental evaluation of major projects”.

Moreover, as a general rule, in order to guarantee the total impartiality and independence of the Coordinator, it is recommended that he or she should not be a national of a Member State concerned by the priority project assigned to him or her.

It was felt that a former senior official in the European Commission (Director-General of DG XI - Environment), former member of the European Parliament, and holder of posts within the Government of the Netherlands presented the best possible profile for the role of Coordinator described above. It is therefore proposed to designate as European Coordinator, to replace Ms Loyola de Palacio:

Mr Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, for priority project No 6 (“Lyon-Trieste-Divača/Koper-Divača-Ljubljana-Budapest-Ukrainian frontier rail link”).

COMMISSION DECISION

C(2007) 3190 of 5 July 2007

amending Decision C(2005) 2754 of 20 July 2005 designating six European Coordinators for certain trans-European transport network projects

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Decision No 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 1996 on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network¹, and in particular Article 17a(1) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Decision C(2005) 2754 of 20 July 2005,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) Under Article 17a(1) of Decision No 1692/96/EC, the Commission may designate European Coordinators to facilitate the coordinated implementation of certain trans-European transport network projects, in particular cross-border projects or parts of projects included among the projects declared to be of European interest.
- (2) The European Coordinators must be chosen on the basis of their experience of European institutions and their knowledge of issues relating to the financing and the socio-economic and environmental evaluation of major projects.
- (3) The European Coordinators must act in the name of and on behalf of the Commission in the framework and within the limits of the mission assigned to them. This may be confined to a single project, especially in the case of cross-border projects, but may, if necessary, be extended to cover the whole of a major route.
- (4) By Decision C(2005) 2754, the Commission designated the persons listed in Annex I to that Decision. That list included Ms Loyola de Palacio, who died in 2006. It is therefore necessary to designate a new European Coordinator to replace her. In that Decision, the Commission also laid down the detailed arrangements for the performance of the tasks of the European Coordinators listed in Annex II thereto.
- (5) Following the designation of a new Coordinator, Annexes I and II to Decision C(2005) 2754 should therefore be amended accordingly.

¹ OJ L 228, 9.9.1996, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision No 884/2004/EC (OJ L 167, 30.4.2004, p. 1).

(6) The Member States concerned have expressed their agreement,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Mr Laurens Jan Brinkhorst is hereby designated European Coordinator for priority project No 6, to replace Ms Loyola de Palacio, deceased.

Article 2

Annexes I and II to this Decision replace Annexes I and II to Decision C(2005) 2754.

Done at Brussels, 5 July 2007

For the Commission
Jacques BARROT
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

NAME	PROJECT	
Mr Karel Van Miert	Priority project No 1 “Berlin-Verona/Milan-Bologna-Naples-Messina-Palermo rail link”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Halle/Leipzig-Nuremberg (2015) - Nuremberg-Munich (2006) - Munich-Kufstein (2015) - Kufstein-Innsbruck (2009) - Brenner Tunnel (2015), cross-border section - Verona-Naples (2007) - Milan-Bologna (2006) - Rail/road bridge across Messina-Palermo Strait (2015)
Mr Etienne Davignon	Priority project No 3 “South-west European high-speed rail link”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lisbon/Porto-Madrid (2011) - Madrid-Barcelona (2005) - Barcelona-Figueras-Perpignan (2008) - Perpignan-Montpellier (2015) - Montpellier-Nîmes (2010) - Madrid-Vitoria-Irun/Hendaye (2010) - Irun/Hendaye-Dax, cross-border section (2010) - Dax-Bordeaux (2020) - Bordeaux-Tours (2015)
Mr Laurens Jan Brinkhorst	Priority project No 6 “Lyon-Trieste-Divača/Koper-Divača-Ljubljana-Budapest-Ukrainian border rail link”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lyon-St Jean de Maurienne (2015) - Mont Cenis Tunnel (2015-2017) - Bussoleno-Turin (2011) - Turin-Venice (2010) - Venice-Ronchi South-Trieste-Divača

		(2015) - Koper-Divača-Ljubljana (2015) - Ljubljana-Budapest (2015)
Mr Péter Balázs	Priority project No 17 “Paris-Strasbourg-Stuttgart-Vienna-Bratislava rail link”	- Baudrecourt-Strasbourg-Stuttgart (2015), including Kehl Bridge - Stuttgart-Ulm (2012) - Munich-Salzburg (2015) - Salzburg-Vienna (2012) - Vienna-Bratislava (2010)
Mr Pavel Telicka	Priority project No 27 “Rail Baltica Warsaw - Kaunas-Riga-Tallinn-Helsinki rail link”	- Warsaw-Kaunas (2010) - Kaunas-Riga (2014) - Riga-Tallinn (2016)
Mr Karel Vinck	Coordinator for rail corridors and ERTMS	

ANNEX II

Mission statement

Subject: Mission as European Coordinator for priority route No 6

Dear Mr Brinkhorst,

On the basis of Commission Decision C(2007) 3190, the Commission has designated you as European Coordinator pursuant to Article 17a of Decision No 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 1996 on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network², as amended by Decision No 884/2004/EC. You will be responsible for priority project No 6 (Lyon-Trieste-Divača/Koper-Ljubljana-Budapest) defined in Annex III to that Decision.

This route is one of the 30 priority projects of European interest referred to in Article 19a of that Decision. In this respect, it is of particular importance in order to give fresh impetus to the Lisbon Strategy and to contribute to employment and growth.

Work along the route in question is, quite apart from political difficulties, affected by concerns relating to coordination between the Member States crossed by the project, such as synchronisation of the work and reaching a firm agreement on detailed timetables and the allocation of funding.

Your mission will therefore be very important to help the Commission in the context of the programming of funding and political dialogue with the Member States to enable them to overcome their difficulties.

Your mission as a European Coordinator will be for a three-year period and will be renewable by mutual agreement.

Your tasks, which stem from those defined by the European Parliament and the Council, will chiefly include:

- i. the promotion of joint project evaluation methods approved in advance by the Commission and the provision, where necessary, of technical expertise to the project promoters regarding the financial package for the projects;
- ii. the drawing up of an annual report for the Commission, for transmission to the European Parliament and the Member States concerned, on the progress made in implementing the project, new regulatory or other developments which may affect the characteristics of the projects, and any difficulties or obstacles likely to cause serious delay affecting the completion dates agreed by the European Parliament and the Council. This report may also be used by the Commission to authorise the extension of aid programmes;
- iii. consultation, together with the Member States concerned, of regional and local authorities, operators and users of the means of transport, as well as representatives of civil society in

² OJ L 228, 9.9.1996, p. 1.

order to better define transport demand, the possibilities of investment funding and the type of services to be provided to facilitate access to such funding;

iv. if requested by the Commission, the preparation of an opinion during the examination of requests for Community funding concerning projects or groups of projects covered by your mission.

Besides these tasks, the Commission wishes to have your assistance in the programming of Community financial aid for the period 2007-2013 of the financial perspective. To this end, it expects you in particular to inform it about any difficulties encountered and the advisability of modifying the characteristics of projects agreed by the Parliament and the Council, in particular in the context of the forthcoming review of the Decision on Community guidelines for the trans-European transport network.

During the performance of your mission you may not make commitments on behalf of the Commission without its prior written agreement. Accordingly, you must act impartially, in an independent and confidential manner, and apply to the best of your abilities your professional knowledge and skills solely in the interests of the Community.

You must avoid any situation giving rise to a conflict of interest regarding the areas in which you are requested to intervene. You must inform me of any conflict of interest arising during your mandate immediately.

Furthermore, you must not use nor divulge any document or information which comes to your knowledge in the course of your duties, unless such information is already in the public domain. All the results produced by you shall be the property of the European Communities, which may use them or publish them as it sees fit.

During the performance of your mission, which is unpaid, you will be granted a monthly flat-rate allowance of €1 500 to cover ongoing expenses and your mission expenses will also be reimbursed in accordance with current Commission rules. In addition, you will be given technical and administrative support by the Commission.

The Director for the trans-European networks is your contact person in the Directorate-General for Transport. The Commission can assure you in advance that you will have the full support, in the implementation of your mission, of the Director and the member of staff who will be designated to assist you on a day-to-day basis at the technical and administrative level.

The Commission is convinced that your support, on which it is counting enormously, will be crucial for the success of the trans-European networks.

The Directorate-General for Transport and Energy will organise regular meetings between the European Coordinators to allow information and experience to be shared.

The Belgian courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction in respect of any dispute concerning the validity, application or interpretation of this contract. This contract is governed by Belgian law.

Yours sincerely,