



METREX response (V2)

Consultation on the European Commission
Green Paper of February 2009
on the TEN-T Review

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European Commission 2009 Review of TEN-T programme

Preamble

The Green Paper raises 12 specific questions for consultation and presents three options for the future form and content of the TEN-T programme (see Appendix 1). The terminology used to describe these options is not as clear and accessible as it might be. However, in essence they amount to the following.

- 1 A comprehensive transportation network (95.7k km of road links, 106k km of railway links (32k km of high speed links), 13k km of inland waterways, 411 airports and 404 sea ports) requiring €500bn of further expenditure and unconnected priority projects (currently 30).
- 2 Reducing the TEN-T programme to priority projects, possibly connected to a priority network.
- 3 A comprehensive network and, within this, a core network comprising a priority network and a process (sector-related policy objectives and criteria) through which to develop "projects of common interest".

Concepts

Overarching ideas

- Visions not divisions of territory
- Divisions are valid as tools
- Different levels and different sectors share one unique territory

Visions in time

- Long term plans (global visions without priorities)
- Medium term programmes (defined priorities)
- Short-term projects (ready to implement)

Visions in space

- Area (municipalities, counties, sub regions (urban or metropolitan), region, state, continent)
- Sectoral networks (not attached to boundaries)

Global vision always as a reference - from the telescope to the microscope

Political vision - territorial organisation (competences and resources distributed at different levels of agreement within the principle of subsidiarity)

Basic territorial rights regardless of centre of periphery, coast or inland, plain or mountain

Subsidiarity

The concept of subsidiarity is the key EU philosophy for relating the different levels of government. It means that each level, European, national, regional and urban, is obliged to address the key issues that can only be dealt with effectively at that level. In this way each provides a reasoned policy context for action at the level below and an input into action at the level above.

The problem at the European level is that the EU is structured in policy silos (of which transportation is one) and that there is no mechanism for the creation of an overall and integrated EU strategic view. For example, it might be expected that territorial cohesion (and spatial planning) would be strongly related to transportation, energy and environmental policy within an overall vision and framework for the future development of the territory of the EU. Such an integrated approach is normal at the city region level. This is one of the major problems for the current TEN-T review.

An integrated spatial vision/framework for Europe

Transportation flows are generated in large part from within and between Europe's major urban areas. The shortcomings of the so called "predict and provide" approach to transportation provision have been well recognised and replaced by a policy led approach which sees connectivity as a means through which to achieve the wider goals of social cohesion and economic competitiveness. Transportation demand can be influenced by wider trans national European and more local regional and urban economic, social and environmental policies.

For example, territorial cohesion, as a concept, assumes a reduction in socio-economic disparities across the EU and connectivity has a major role to play in achieving this. The European spatial observation network (ESPON) has carried out and published research into the strengths and weaknesses of Europe's 100+ recognised major urban areas. Improved European connectivity within and between well established and recognised urban clusters and corridors has a key role to play in the development of a Europe that is better balanced and more cohesive. This is one of the key policy approaches that should drive a future TEN-T programme.

It is disappointing that the recent Green Papers on Territorial Cohesion and the TEN-T programme should have been produced so close together in time and yet, apparently, with so little coordination and integration between them. It is also disappointing that neither Green Paper takes the opportunity to present a vision of what better might look like in European territorial terms. Neither takes the opportunity to use imaginative graphics or modern means of visual communication. Both rely on the written word to describe their planning approaches.

To those working at the regional and city region level this is a sadly limited approach. The EU should look to colleagues in countries such as the Netherlands and Germany, which have both produced national Spatial Visions, integrating territorial, transportation and environmental considerations using a much fuller range of visual communication techniques. One effective graphic is worth a thousand words and also demands the discipline of clarity of thought to be effective.

The PolyMETREXplus project, under the Interreg IIIC programme and led by the Generalitat de Catalunya, was an attempt by a 20 European metropolitan areas to scope and illustrate the potential for a European spatial vision and framework as a contribution to the debate on territorial cohesion. The PolyMETREXplus project emphasised the need for North/South, East/West and peripheral connectivity to be improved to counter the current radial emphasis to the London/Paris/Rhine/Ruhr European core area. This would help to facilitate greater inter action between clusters and corridors of urban areas outside the core and promote the better territorial balance and cohesion being sought by the EU.

Energy, transportation and climate change

The EU is currently considering a trans national approach to the integration of the sources of renewable energy within and adjoining its territory. For example, the connection of northerly and easterly wind and coastal wave and tidal resources with southern solar resources by a new high voltage direct current (HVDC) grid network.

The decarbonising of the EU's energy supply in this way needs to be reflected and related to the decarbonising of EU modes of transportation. Investment in renewable energy for transport is more important than investment in transportation infrastructure as such, given the imperatives of climate change. It might be expected that energy and transportation policy within the EU would be closely integrated in this way. For example, there will be a need for infrastructure to supply the new generation of electric/hybrid cars and goods vehicles and to pilot and promote the use of hydrogen.

Integrated European transportation network

A TEN-T network is urgently needed as a structural component for the organisation of the territory of the EU. METREX colleagues in Catalunya have long experience in the formulation of a basic European strategic roads network. Catalunya, through the Pyrenaic Regions Conference (made proposal as far back as 1982. Since then this view has been able to be refined through the use of three tools.

- 1 Simulated relief maps
- 2 Night satellite photography
- 3 Average Daily Traffic maps (ADT) at a continental scale.

ADT have been made in Catalunya every 5 years from 1985 to 2005 with the support of the European Commission (1990) and the Economic Commission for Europe from the United Nations (from 1995 to 2005).

With these tools and traffic maps at higher scales (Barcelona since 1965 and Catalunya since 1975) it has been possible to put together a sequence of progressive network maps, from Roman Barcelona to a proposal for a minimum network of strategic roads at the European scale (see Appendix 7 from "*PolyMETREXplus Framework. Polycentricity and better European territorial balance*" or the complete proposal in PolyMETREXplus Discussion Note 12A (see the METREX web site at www.eurometrex.org).

The parallel studies from Richard Florida (USA) are interesting because they corroborate the benefit of the simulated relief maps and satellite tools, although without the benefit of the ADT traffic maps.

Historically only two basic strategic road networks have been undertaken at the continental scale. Firstly, the roadways of the Roman Empire (used for centuries) and the highway network of the USA, driven by President Eisenhower in the 1950's. Both are examples of the high level of territorial cohesion and global development that can be facilitated by a coherent strategic road network.

Response by METREX to the three TEN-T options in the Green Paper

Having regard to these considerations METREX would advocate the following approach to the review of the TEN-T programme.

- 1 EU transportation policy and programmes should be set within a wider and integrated vision for the future planning and development of the territory of the EU. This should be produced jointly by the Regional Policy, Employment and Social Affairs, Transport, Energy and Environment Directorates.
- 2 The vision might usefully draw on the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of Europe's major metropolitan areas carried out by ESPON and reflect the need to achieve a better urban balance across the territory of the EU.

- 3 Within this context, the EU transport strategy should include an overall TEN-T programme and related priority projects. The strategy should be to support cohesion and competitiveness, as portrayed in the overall EU vision, and the programme should set out the projects of European significance that will be supported in the short, medium and longer term.
- 4 The future TEN-T programme needs to emphasise North/South, East/West and peripheral connectivity to counter the current radial emphasis to the London/Paris/Rhine/Ruhr European core area. This would help to facilitate greater inter action between clusters and corridors of urban areas outside the core and promote the better territorial balance and cohesion being sought by the EU.
- 5 Transport is one of the primary sources of EU greenhouse gas emissions. EU transport in the future will have to be based on electricity and hydrogen as primary fuels. The infrastructure to support this shift for road, rail, maritime and aviation transport needs to be a major part of future TENT-T programmes and projects.
- 6 There is a need for an integrated strategic European road transportation network as a structural component for the organisation of the European territory.

Within the context of these broad observations METREX supports the following detailed responses from the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Conurbation Planning Association and the Federal States of Berlin-Brandenburg, which you have received separately.

The Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt/Rhein-Main (Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Conurbation Planning Association)

Position paper

The Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt/Rhein-Main (Frankfurt/Rhine-Main Conurbation Planning Association) is the office of the polycentric Frankfurt/Rhine-Main metropolitan region (for information on the metropolitan region: http://www.planungsverband.de/media/custom/1169_819_1.PDF and <http://www.planungsverband.de> -> Region -> Metropolregion).

As the authority responsible for the regional land use plan for the eponymous conurbation, the Planungsverband stresses the necessity for closely integrating the transport infrastructure with the space for development and open space. This aspect is not adequately addressed in the draft TEN-T Green Paper and must be looked at in greater depth. It is indispensable that correlations with regional planning and development be analysed and the content of the TEN-T Green Paper co-ordinated with the "Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion – Turning Territorial Diversity into Strength".

Changes to the initial situation of the Trans-European Transport Network In the view of the Planungsverband, the circumstances below illustrate the necessity of this integration and a revision of the Trans-European Transport Network:

- The demographic shift with a foreseeable shrinking of the population in many European countries. According to the Spatial Planning Report for Germany (Raumordnungsbericht)¹ many conurbations will continue to grow until 2020. At the same time, some areas will experience considerable reductions in population.
- Employment development: the Spatial Planning Report likewise assumes various employment trends; these do not necessarily correlate with the population development.
- Land Development: the future management of development space is connected with employment and population development. All the same, the Spatial Planning Report shows strong growth in development and traffic in areas that will stagnate in the future.
- A shortage of financial resources makes it impossible to implement every Trans-European Transport Network measure mentioned so far (TEN-T, EN, p. 12 f)
- Climate change: the EU Commission's White Paper of 2001² refers to the need to limit CO₂ emissions in the transport sector, 84% of which is produced by road traffic, in the face of uninterrupted growth. This is essential not only in environmental terms but also from an economic viewpoint.
- Decoupling economic growth and transport demand: the EU White Paper of 2001 regards it as a high-priority objective to enable economic growth without an increase in transport, and states a few steps towards this.

Developing a priority network

These circumstances are not sufficiently dealt with in the Green Paper. In the opinion of the Planungsverband, they must determine action in the future shaping of the Trans-European Transport Network whilst considering demand structures.

The consequence of this is a strengthening of the conurbations that are expected to grow with a corresponding development of high-capacity corridors linking these conurbations and priority for rail as the backbone. The Green Paper's aim of treating priority networks incorporating nodes based on a multimodal approach is highly welcomed (TEN-T, EN, p. 8 ff). This must not be detached from correlations with built-up areas and open space or from the circumstances described above.

- 1 Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (now the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development, BBSR) (2005) Spatial Planning Report 2005, Reports vol. 21, Bonn
- 2 The European Commission (2001) The European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to Decide, Luxembourg

Decoupling economic growth from transport demand entails firstly reducing distances in daily transport and secondly shifting journeys from motorised individual transport to public transport with a structure geared to rail, occasionally to bicycle transport as well.

With extra mitigation measures required in the priority road network, the focus has to be on scrutinising traffic management measures using intelligent transport systems before developing infrastructure. In the scenario of the circumstances mentioned above, road related measures in the Trans-European Transport Network of peripheral and shrinking regions must no longer be given priority or their importance for the objective of competitiveness and cohesion studied on a pan-European level.

The key role of freight transport

The economic growth hoped for will cause an increase in the volume of freight movement. This potential ought to be steered more and more to rail transport. In this way rail transport, which has been neglected for over 50 years – as detailed in the White Paper of 2001 –, should undergo a renaissance. The increase in rail freight transport, which has been observed in Germany for a good ten years, is a key indicator of the modal-shift potential of the rail system. This is in no small measure due to the private rail transport companies that have been operating since the railway market opened.

In terms of freight transport, the following ought to be considered in defining the Trans-European Networks:

- Organising maritime ports with the aim of optimising the flows of goods from overseas. To what extent can Mediterranean ports such as Genoa, Marseilles or Lisbon take over transport hitherto oriented towards North Sea ports? This saves circuitous routes and takes the pressure of unnecessary through-traffic off main axes like the Rhine corridor
- Promoting a cross-border, uninterrupted rail market
- Encouraging interoperability, for instance by organisational and financial support for the smooth implementation of ERTMS (European Rail Traffic Management System)
- Intermodal transport: extending transshipment facilities to boost combined transport, co-operation with ports and airports
- Taking into consideration the potential of a closely meshed network of rail sidings to improve single-wagon transport that is reliant on them. This could be achieved by gearing financial support instruments towards the network effect of rail siding traffic.
- Taking freight transport logistics into account: there is often a lack of know-how in rail freight transport. Logistical processes and infrastructures are therefore often road-oriented.
- The “bottom-up” approach referred to in the Green Paper to back co-ordinated courses of action in developing rail freight transport corridors is welcomed and seen as an important innovative addition to exercising the principle of subsidiarity in European politics (TEN-T, EN, p. 14 f).

Options for the future TEN-T development (TEN-T, EN, p. 16, chap. 4)

Given the scenario of limited financial resources and the circumstances stated at the beginning, the future shaping of European transport policy must first focus on a priority network of key rail corridors to connect the large and still-expanding metropolitan regions. Concentrating solely on high-speed transport is inadvisable, given the network effect of the supply side. The example of TGV-Est (Paris-Saarbrücken-Mannheim-Frankfurt am Main) illustrates the necessity for incorporation of the transport axis in the spatial context allowing for the spatial circumstances. The requisite network connections must be secured to ensure long-distance, freight and regional transport.

Core issues for a common statement of the federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg on the Green Paper TEN-T: Revision of politics

Introduction

Increase of efficiency, transport safety and danger prevention are important issues. In considering all positive aspects of transport it is also of importance to tackle the negative effects such as fragmentation by roads, environmental pollution and congestions and noise pollution.

in order to integrate the region of Central Europe, as a linking element between the Baltic Sea Region and the Mediterranean region (OAE) as well as of the European core zone and the new member states accordingly, in particular with regard to a better coordination with the territorial development (Territorial Agenda of the European Union) and guaranteeing transport planning at European level

The Green Paper of the Commission on the TEN-T is basically welcomed.

The projects should be checked in total, also in considering the aspect that other projects that became necessary after the EU-enlargement are missing on the priority list. However, certain discrepancy is noticed in the statements of the commission between the transport-political orientation towards climate protection and the claim for an improved implementation of the TEN-T-projects. Reference is made to the increasing importance of political measures on controlling the demand concerning the transport demand to be expected, however, this aspect is not included in the remarks on the catalogue of questions.

Question 1

Should the assessment of the previous TEN-T extension by the Commission consider any further factors?

The previous guidelines for TEN-T include two levels being different as regards their character. The first level is an overall network level. The information and intentions of the individual member states form the basis thereof. The second level is a project and investment level. It shall, based on the overall network, present projects of common interest. . In such an existing form the TEN-T are not sufficiently sustainable.

Moreover, with regard to the political requirements for climate protection concerning the TEN-T-policy a detailed consideration of the transport demand to be expected is necessary. Behind this background, the necessity of European coordination of the forecasts on transport demand has been identified for the international air and maritime transport as well as for the trans-European ground transport.

The definition of common interests has also to be integrated in the pure consideration of investments. When selecting priority measures also aspects of a balanced spatial development (e.g. EUREK, TEAU, ESPON-investigations, Interreg-projects) shall be considered as well as the principle of sustainability and a border-crossing European added value.

The Commission is requested to intensify its efforts aiming at ensuring better coordination of the territorial development (Territorial Agenda of the European Union) and of transport planning at European level.

Question 2

What arguments do exist in favour of or against maintaining the overall network and how can the respective disadvantages of the individual concepts be balanced?

The structural option (3) for the arrangement of the TEN-T, i.e. two levels: overall network and “core network” proposed in the Green Paper is supported. In brief, the core network aims at the extensive European networking, the overall network aims at connecting the space with the core network and thus ensures the access function (accessibility) for the regions.

Question 3

Would the approach of a priority network be better than the present approach of the priority projects? If not, why and what are the special strengths of the latter? If yes, what (further) advantages could come along with a priority network and how should it be arranged?

As regards the decision on integrating routes and corridors in the core network generally accepted criteria shall be taken as a basis in the EU.

The core network should be geared to the objective of strengthening the European competitiveness in functional terms. Possible spatial and transport approaches for such a (functional) core network could include connection of transport nodes of European importance as well as of the capital and metropolitan regions, i.e. ensuring the connection with global markets by developing the European transport axes,

The statements of the Commission in the Green Paper on this issue are expressively supported concerning the optimisation of the use of existing infrastructural capacities and flexibilisation of the concept of the projects of common interest. In particular the efficiency of the existing rail infrastructure can be considerably increased within the TEN-T, because – as regards transnational connections - the problems at the interface border are often bigger due to missing interoperability and time-consuming administrative law than the deficiencies in the infrastructure. And the mutual accessibility would become more visible and better for the citizens of Europe and the linking European character of this border-crossing infrastructure would become clearer.

Question 4

Would this flexible approach for ascertaining projects of common interest be appropriate for a policy that normally bases strongly on the decisions of the individual countries on investments in the infrastructure? What further advantages and disadvantages could it have and how could it be involved best in the planning activities at community level?

Now, the projects are derived based on a defined European core network, an analysis and the thus resulting strengths and weaknesses in the core network itself. By the general consideration of the network, connected with linking the partial networks in transport nodes, the integration of projects in existing networks and network nodes the special requirements of passenger and freight transport, of freight transport logistics, the special requirements of airports and ports as well as generally the various requirements of the different modes of transport are taken into consideration from the very beginning.

Question 5

How can the various aspects mentioned before be taken best into account within the overall concept for the future TEN-T establishment? What further aspects should be taken into consideration?

The analysis of the transport flow and of the transport networks, their efficiency and strains form the basic precondition for sufficiently consideration of the mentioned various aspects.

Question 7

Does an extension of the concept of an (infrastructural) project of common interest become necessary due to the shifting of the borders between infrastructure and vehicles or the provision of infrastructure and the kind of its use? If yes, what about the content of this concept?

The position stated in the Green Paper that the definition of a TEN-T-core network could be the basis for forming various innovative approaches on development and use of the infrastructure is shared.

Question 8

Would this core network be “feasible” at community level and what advantages and disadvantages would it entail? What methods should be used for its conception?

Basically, the member states should be responsible for the arrangement and development of the respective national part of a future core network. In this regard, basic requirements and standards for the arrangement, the establishment and equipment of the infrastructure have to be provided for in a binding manner. Furthermore, a core network would have higher potential for a real network effect and stronger emphasis on the obligation of the member states for completing the network.

Question 9

How can the demand for funds of the TEN-T as a whole be covered in the short, medium and long term? What forms of financing – public or private – satisfies best, at Community or member state level, which aspects of the TEN-T-establishment?

The European financial means should be mainly focused on the core network and, if necessary, on selected infrastructures on the balanced connection of the regions.

Question 10

What kind of aid can be offered to the member states to support them in financing and completing projects they are responsible for. Should the integration of private economy in providing infrastructure be supported to a greater extent? If yes, how?

The community aids for the member states have been known. New forms or additional opportunities should not be created.