

Commissioner Siim Kallas
Vice President, Transport
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
Berlaymont
B1049 Brussels

10 September 2010

Our ref: 11001/10

Dear Commissioner

As you may be aware, I was previously in correspondence with your predecessor, Commissioner Tajani, with regards to the A47 route in the Eastern region of the UK and its inclusion in the TEN-T network.

I am fully aware that the previous UK Government downgraded this route and that in doing so it was not considered to be a possible Strategic National Corridor and therefore would not be eligible for national funding. Also at regional level, the A47 was not included in the East of England Regional Funding Allocation (RFA2), despite grave concerns from various stakeholders in the region that it was crucial to the economy that the route not only remained a TEN-T route but that it was also reinstated as a route of national priority.

During the current consultation, it is vital that consideration be given to the status of the A47 with a view to reinstating it as a priority. As the Commission's Green Paper stated, Priority routes are examined with a suggestion to move towards a geographically defined network approach, incorporating ports and airports. Improved transport routes are desperately needed on land in this region to allow the expansion of the Great Yarmouth harbour to fulfill its potential and to allow local businesses to expand.

Commissioner Tajani confirmed in his reply to me that "the UK Government decision to downgrade the A47 route to a road of regional strategic importance rather than one of national strategic importance, does not have any impact to the prioritisation of the section in the framework of the TEN-T policy. In line with the TEN-T guidelines, it is still classified as a project of common interest."

I hope due consideration can be given to this route by the Commission during its consultation and that, if necessary, that it may be included in any amendments proposed to the list of priority projects.

Yours sincerely

Robert Sturdy MEP
Eastern Region, UK