

# Single European railway area. Recast

2010/0253(COD) - 12/03/2012 - Commission communication on Council's position

While still being in line with the general objective of simplification and increasing transparency by consolidating three existing directives and their modifications, **the Council weakened the Commission proposal concerning access to rail-related services, infrastructure financing, infrastructure charges and powers of the regulatory body**. In some cases, the Council's position confirms existing law without further improvement despite the various reasons for such efforts, such as: (a) the adequate financing of and charging for rail infrastructures, (b) the conditions of competition on the railway market, and (c) the organisational reforms needed to ensure appropriate supervision of the market:

In this regard, **the Council's position would be improved by taking into account some amendments adopted by the European Parliament**.

The Commission recalls that the present proposal is particularly important to reach the objectives set out in its communication "[Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system](#)" adopted on 28 March 2011. It should also pave the way to new Commission initiatives in 2012 to foster further market integration in rail transport and should therefore be adopted by co-legislators as soon as possible.

Despite the weakening of several provisions, **the Commission considers that the Council's position reflects the main objectives of its proposal** and therefore believes that the legislative process and the discussion with the European Parliament should continue in second reading.