



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport
Director

Brussel,
MOVE.B.2/ MM/ak/Ares(2018)2429960

Mr. Priit Humal
Member of the Management Board
Avalikult Rail Balticust
MTÜ ARB

Via e-mail: priit.humal@gmail.com

Subject: Rail Baltica project

Ref.: Your e-mail of 23 February 2018, reference Ares(2018)1063558

Dear Mr Humal,

I refer to your e-mail dated 23 February 2018 in which you address for our attention several requests concerning the Rail Baltica project. Further to my letter of 13 April 2018 concerning your request on access to document I would like to share with you the following.

Proceedings underpinning the funding decisions of the calls for proposals under the CEF Programme follow the logic of internal procedures. The eligibility of RB project for CEF support has been assessed taking account of a socio-economic cost-benefit analysis conducted by AECOM, because at the time of the CEF calls the new updated CBA performed by Ernst & Young Baltics Ltd was in the process of being completed. As regards this updated CBA, as stated in my previous letter of 17 October 2017 (our reference: ARES (2017)5609474), DG MOVE has no reason to doubt its methodological soundness and analysis, which was conducted in line with Commission guidelines.

I would like to recall that CBA is only one of the supporting documents on the basis of which the applications for CEF support are being evaluated by the Commission. I would also like to recall that the CBAs - underpinning the RB or any other project - are not being commissioned by the Commission and are therefore entirely the property of the concerned stakeholders. The position of the Commission is that CBAs are based on a number of options and a set of assumptions; but, it is not for the Commission to defend, correct or express a policy on the documents which it does not own.

In this regard, the Commission is not in the position to assess your claim about a possible bias or a situation of a conflict of interest. The CBA is assessed during the evaluation of projects that have been submitted during a call for proposals. There is no possibility to include your (or any third party) representative in this evaluation process, and doing so would compromise the independence and objectivity of it.

The staff of DG MOVE did not assess or approve the updated CBA RB. Rather, the compliance of the updated CBA with the best practice application standards of the EU CBA Guide was verified by a reviewer external to DG MOVE, with a lengthy track record in advising the European Commission on the economic aspects of the large scale international transportation projects.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Ruijters', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Herald RUIJTERS