

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

> Return address Postbus 20904 2500 EX Den Haag

European Commission Commissioner for Transport Adina Vălean **Bestuurskern** Dir.Openbaar Vervoer en Spoor Veiligheid en Goederen

Den Haag Postbus 20904 2500 EX Den Haag

Date <u>29 JAN 2020</u> Subject Position paper international rail passenger transport

Our reference IENW/BSK-2020/2271 Enclosure(s)

Dear Commissioner Adina Vălean,

As a follow-up to the letter of 18 September 2019¹ on international rail passenger transport, it is my pleasure to present you with the position paper that was suggested in that letter. A draft of this position paper was discussed by Member States and the European Commission representatives at a high level meeting on 15 November 2019 in Amsterdam. International rail passenger transport is a sustainable alternative mode of transport, can make a significant contribution to reducing climate change impact from transport and has substantial potential for further development.

Realizing the promise of the goals recently presented in the Green Deal initiative will require decisive and comprehensive action from both the European Commission and Member States. I therefore ask you to take into account the ideas and proposed measures set out in this position paper as you work to implement the strategic vision laid out by the new Commission. In the coming months I will liaise with Member States' colleagues to raise awareness and support for cooperation between Member States on this important issue. My ministry looks forward to continuing to work closely with the European Commission in this framework.

Yours sincerely,

THE MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT,

drs. C. van Nieuwenhuizen Wijbenga

¹ IENW/BSK-2019/192774