

ORAL QUESTION H-1029/05
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Arūnas Degutis
to the Commission

Subject: Third Railway Package

In 2001, the European Commission published the White Paper entitled: 'European Transport Policy for 2010: time to decide' which includes an ambitious target for revitalising the European railways system. This challenge was met by the adoption of the First and Second Railway Packages. Then, moving further, the Commission presented a Third Railway Package. I welcome and support its efforts to create a genuinely common EU railway market through the gradual liberalisation of the railway market. However, the recent enlargement of the European Union has changed the geography of the EU's internal market in such a way that application of the rail-freight liberalisation Directive 2004/51/EC¹ might be very controversial and even counter-productive. Did the European Commission consider the specific situation of the railway sector, in the context of the recent EU enlargement from 15 to 25 Member States, and, in particular, any possible implications for Lithuania before submitting the Third Railway Package?

Tabled: 22.11.2005
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¹ OJ L 164, 30.4.2004, p. 164.