

Network Rail welcomes the European Commission proposals contained in the State Aid Action Plan consultation document and fully supports the aims of the Lisbon strategy. There are some specific issues on which Network Rail would wish to comment further as shown below :

1. Part II 5 (36) Better Prioritisation through simplification and consolidation .

Network Rail is particularly interested to hear that the EC is looking at the way in which Research and Development funding is allocated and fully supports the proposal to better target research funds. Network Rail would like to propose that the opportunity is taken to look at ways in which these funds are channelled into the rail transport sector by strengthening the role of ERRAC.

2. Part II 7 (46) Encouraging an environmentally sustainable future .

The rail system is seen as environmentally friendly . However Network Rail would wish to see greater cognisance taken of our efforts to create a more eco friendly infrastructure possibly through making grants available for eco efficient schemes .

3. Part II 8 (47) Setting up modern transport, energy and information and communication technology infrastructures.

The UK has a very open rail market whose success can be judged by the growth in both passenger and freight traffic . We would not wish to see any guidelines produced or any other changes which would adversely affect this growth. Network Rail welcomes any support to assist in the development of these ideas

4. Part III 4 (60) A comprehensive review of the remaining documents .

Network Rail hopes that this review will not lead to the generation of a very bureaucratic review which leads to resources being diverted from the generation of new business to more form filling.

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