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**HT.5524- 1st Advisory Committee (TBER) & Multilateral (LMTG)**

The Greek authorities acknowledge and appreciate the Commission's efforts to enhance the State aid rules applicable to land and multimodal transport, by proposing a Regulation declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market under Articles 93, 107 and 108 of the Treaty (TBER) and by replacing the 2008 Guidelines on State aid for railway undertakings, aiming to stimulate sustainable forms of transport and at the same time allowing for greater simplification.

In this context, please find below a remark of the Greek authorities on the amendment of the draft Regulation:

Regarding point 21 of the preamble of TBER, where it is noted that aid can take the form of a reduction in the charges railway undertakings pay to use rail network infrastructure, we would like to stress the need to make up for the aforementioned reduction of the infrastructure manager's revenue. We note that the infrastructure manager in Greece is in state aid terms the operator of a natural monopoly and receives annual State funding (in the context of a contractual agreement), which is not deemed to constitute state aid and thus it would be good to complement point 21 accordingly, mentioning that the charges could be paid to the infrastructure manager.