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A new and better framework for the railways in Europe

Today, the Council and the European Parliament agreed on a new framework for railway traffic in Europe in the shape of a recast of the first railway package. This will bring about improved conditions for the European railways.

In 2010, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a directive on a revision of the first railway package. The proposal is a recast of the first railway package, which was adopted in 2000. The revision includes e.g. a simplification, clarification and modernisation of the existing rules, which in turn will contribute to the creation of a genuine internal market for railway services.

The Council and the European Parliament have continuously negotiated the dossier during the Danish EU Presidency. At a trilogue meeting on 13 June 2012, the parties agreed on a text, which was adopted by the member states' permanent representatives today. The proposal will come into force, when it has been adopted as "A" point by the ministers and by the plenary assembly in the European Parliament within the coming weeks.

In this context, Minister for Transport Mr Henrik Dam Kristensen says:

"- I am pleased that we agreed on a new and better framework for railway traffic in Europe today.

- With the agreement, we have taken an important step towards developing the European railway.

- I expect the new rules to engender more passengers and more goods transport by rail in Europe. An efficient railway sector benefits both citizens and businesses alike and is an important piece of the puzzle in terms of strengthening growth in Europe."