



***Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti***

Dipartimento per le Infrastrutture, i Sistemi informativi e statistici  
Direzione Generale per lo Sviluppo del territorio,  
la Programmazione ed i Progetti internazionali  
IL DIRETTORE GENERALE

**SENT BY EMAIL ONLY**

**Mr Christian Faure**

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**Subject: Assessment of ASR 2019 – Action n° 2014-EU-TM-0401-M Cross Border Section of the New Lyon-Turin Rail Link Mont Cenis Base Tunnel (TBM) -- Grant Agreement number INEA/CEF/TRAN/M2014/1057372**

**Ref: Your letter Ref. Ares(2019)3955177 - 21/06/2019**

Dear Mr Faure,

acting as the coordinator of the project in subject, we refer to your note mentioned above concerning the completion of the assessment procedure of the Action Status Report (ASR) submitted in March 2019, and the willingness shown by INEA to assess the feasibility of the project revised implementation plan in order to evaluate the potential extension of the Grant Agreement in force, without prejudice to the prior formal submission of the request for “amendment” by the beneficiaries by the deadline of 30 September.

As regards your request for confirmation of the expected date of the seven critical milestones on whose successful completion the implementation of the works, within a timeframe compatible with the above-mentioned extension of the Grant Agreement, depends, you can refer, without any further technical comments, to the content of the TELT letter, as the implementing body of the Action and the project public promoter, ref. nr.108/TELT\_PECO/9/DG/19 dated 27/06/2019 (our ref. n.11096 dated 27/06/2019).

In the mentioned letter, here attached including a courtesy translation in French, TELT expresses a critical justified position in respect of the only milestone ‘*Signature of the contract - Activity A.15 – Avrieux shafts*’ for reasons relating to the complexity and sensitivity of the tender procedure and the activities carried out by bodies outside the company, and suggests fixing in December 2019 the delivery of the contract award file to the commission of the contracts, whose procedural completion is likely to be completed by March 2020.

From a specifically Italian point of view and referring to the recently orientation reached by the Italian Government, I would like to mention the intervention of the Italian Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte, of 23 July, in which, in view of the fact that “*not to realize the TAV [the high-speed Turin-Lyon rail link] would cost*

*much more than to complete it*”, also having taken into account the possible increase of European funds, the Government expressed favor for the confirmation of the project “*in the face of national interest*”.

In summary, therefore, in the light of the above, while from a technical point of view we can only refer to the aforementioned TELT note, as regards the national political vision, the position is expressed through the message of the Italian Prime Minister Conte “*without prejudice to the full sovereignty and autonomy of the Parliament*”. Since it has been announced that the matter will be referred to Parliament, following the outcome of any such discussion and vote of the Chambers in the next few days, a communication will be sent regarding the Italian State’s definitive position.

Presenting you my sincere sense of gratitude for the institutional collaboration assured and the flexibility demonstrated in the occasion of our submitted request for the extension of the deadline,

yours faithfully,

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
(Dott.ssa Bernadette VECA)

Encl:

- TELT letter ref. nr.108/TELT\_PECO/9/DG/19 dated 27/06/2019 (including a courtesy translation in French)

Copy:

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