

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A
S T A N D I N G C O M M I T T E E
O F T H E E F T A S T A T E S

2/00/W/021
11 September 1996
Brussels

SUBCOMMITTEE II ON FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND SERVICES

**EFTA COMMENTS ON THE GREEN PAPER
“THE CITIZENS’ NETWORK”**

1. The Green Paper “The Citizens’ Network” is a consultative document which discusses important measures to improve public passenger transport.
2. The Green Paper aims at stimulating a discussion and debate on the best ways to promote public passenger transport. The Green Paper is not presented as a “master plan” and it does not contain any proposals for new legislation.
3. The key objective of policy-making stated in this paper, namely how to meet the increasing demand for transport in the most effective manner to better fulfil economic, social and environmental objectives, is on the whole compatible with policies in the EFTA States.
4. The EFTA States favour the possibility for citizens to change from one mode to another eased through coordinated timetables and ticketing.
5. The EFTA States strongly support the reference to the subsidiarity principle in the transport sector. Each country differs considerably when it comes to matters such as population density, geographical size, climate etc. Hence, measures to build the Citizens’ Network must be taken at a local, regional or national level, i.e. as closely as possible to the users.
6. Even though the Green Paper does not contain proposals for a new regulatory framework, it is emphasised that contribution should be made to a Citizen’s Network by improving the regulatory framework in areas which have an impact on passenger transport, such as rules on market access, public transport and state aids. The Green Paper also indicates that the public procurement rules will be examined and that public tender is regarded as a proper measure to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of transport operations. In further elaborating on this matter, it is important however to recognise that public tender is applied differently throughout the Member States (including the EFTA States).

(continued)

7. The EFTA States support the research and development program launched by the Commission in this field and look forward to exchanging views on these matters.

8. All in all, the EFTA States support the ideas contained in the Green Paper and are prepared to take part in further discussions.

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