

VIOLETA BULC
Member of the European Commission

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Doris LEUTHARD
Federal Councillor
Head of the Federal Department
of the Environment, Transport, Energy
and Communications (DETEC)
Kochergasse 6
3003 Bern
SWITZERLAND

Dear Ms Leuthard,

I would like to thank you for having informed the Commission about the upcoming need for a complete overhaul of the Gotthard road tunnel and about the options available to absorb traffic during the refurbishment. The EU respects the decision of the Federal Council and of the Swiss Parliament to dig a second tube through the Gotthard which would be used as the main tube while the existing one is being renovated. We understand that, after the renovation of the existing tube, one lane would be used for traffic in each of the two tubes, while the remaining space in the tubes would serve for emergency and maintenance purposes.

On 11 March 2014, my predecessor as EU Commissioner in charge of transport, Vice-President Siim Kallas, sent you a letter saying that we consider the foreseen limitation of capacity in the Gotthard road tunnel to be in line with Article 32 of the Agreement on the carriage of goods and passengers by rail and road, concluded between the EU and Switzerland in 1999. I am happy to confirm this view.

Yours sincerely,



Violeta BULC