



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Administrative Capacity Building and Programmes Implementation II
Hungary

Brussels,
REGIO.DDG.E4/THB

Subject: ITOP monitoring committee 26 April 2018

Dear Mr Szalóki,

I would like to convey to you our views on some important aspects directly linked to the implementation of the Integrated Transport OP (ITOP) and thank you for the very good organisation of the monitoring committee meeting as well.

First, I would like to express my appreciation of your efforts, which led to the current very good performance of the ITOP. The overall progress of the OP is excellent as well as the payments to the beneficiaries which stands at approximately 69%. The financial absorption rate of the programme also shows good progress as the total EU payments reached 30%. With this, the n+3 target for 2018 is fulfilled and the projections are also promising for the year 2019.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of the fulfilment of the performance framework. Although the milestones set for 2018 are expected to be fulfilled securely there were some issues reported by your service regarding the final targets. I suggest that you continue the dialogue on this issue with us to find the most appropriate solution.

Regarding major projects, I would like to emphasize once again the importance of proper project preparation. Learning from last year's experience, I kindly request that in the future you only submit major projects that JASPERS found mature enough. I suggest taking full advantage of the preliminary independent quality review.

Finally, I would like to mention the closure of the 2007-2013 programme. There are several ongoing proceedings, which prevent us from closing the programme. Amongst these, one outstanding issue is the congestion charge in connection of the Metro 4 project. In your reply of 9 August 2017 you have mentioned several possible solutions however there were no tangible supporting documents attached, thus we are not in a position to confirm that the beneficiary has fulfilled all commitments they have made at the approval of the project. This situation puts the expenditure already certified for the project at risk of recovery. I would like to seize the opportunity to kindly ask you to

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acquire more concrete, official confirmation from the beneficiary regarding this issue, and submit it to us at your earliest convenience.

As always, my colleagues and I remain at your service.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Bender
(*e-signed*)

Copy: Gábor Dányi, Prime Minister's Office