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2024-611

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Transit on the Great Belt Bridge in Denmark

Dear Mr. Feighan

Thank you for your letter concerning transit on the Great Belt Bridge in Denmark.

As you are probably well aware there was a major railway accident on the Great Belt Bridge in January 2021. Eight passengers were killed and many more wounded, when a semi-trailer not adequately attached broke free from a pocket wagon and hit an oncoming passenger train on the westernmost part of the bridge. Other incidents with semi-trailers not properly attached has since been identified on the Danish railways.

In the aftermath of the accident there was an urgent need to take necessary measures to prevent such an accident from happening again. The Danish Civil Aviation and Railway Authority, who is the independent authority administering railway safety in Denmark, concluded that this required implementing new regulations as the current EC-regulation could not guarantee a similar accident from happening.

The Danish Civil Aviation and Railway Authority have formulated a memo addressing the topics of concern in more detail. I have attached this letter to my own.

We have a common ambition in facilitating viable conditions for the European rail freight market, but this ambition cannot be based on unnecessarily risking human lives.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Danielsen