

Ismail Ertug

Member of the European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism, Member

To the European Commission
Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
Margrethe Vestager

Brussels, 1 June 2023

Dear Commissioner Vestager,

As a measure of the National German Federal Hydrogen Strategy (NWS), the Innovation & Technology Center for Hydrogen in mobility (Ger.: Innovations- und Technologiezentrum für Wasserstoff, ITZ) has been initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV) in 2021. Four locations across Germany were selected in a competitive process to form the ITZ. They are Duisburg (ITZ WEST), Hamburg/Bremen/Bremerhaven/Stade (ITZ NORTH), Chemnitz (ITZ EAST), and Pfeffenhausen (ITZ SOUTH). The four ITZ locations have aligned a full coverage of hydrogen mobility technologies and applications including road, rail, shipping and aviation.

The core of the ITZ is a unique hydrogen infrastructure for testing and certification of hydrogen technologies, open for use by any interested industry partner, in particular SME, as well as to research organizations to leverage the utmost synergies

It is of high urgency for the transformation of Europe's mobility industry on ground, on rail, on water and in the air. The realization of the ITZ has been pending for more than 6 months due to an ongoing alignment process between German BMDV and DG COMP. Further delay would put the entire ITZ under risk and disadvantage Europe's mobility industry against Asian and North American competition.

A funding scheme for the ITZ has been proposed in the ITZ feasibility study mid of 2022 as initiated by the Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV) in 2021. The resulting funding approach has been sent to DG COMP in Brussels for notice in autumn 2022. Unfortunately, and unexpectedly, DG COMP has provided its concerns only after multiple demands, end of January 2023, and still has not proposed a date to BMDV for finding consensus on an appropriate design of the underlying funding scheme. This delay is causing damage to the ITZ approach as well as Europe's competitive position in the world in

hydrogen mobility and delays the transformation process of the EU supplier industry. It furthermore harms Europe's standing in Regulations, Codes, and Standards (RCS) for hydrogen technologies. The ITZ consortia in all four locations therefore urgently ask DG COMP to accelerate the setup of the ITZ by confirming a compliant funding scheme to avoid further delay resulting in a loss of competitiveness of the European and German hydrogen supplier industry.

Therefore we as Members of the European Parliament have the following three questions to you:

Q1: Could you please share the status and next steps of DG COMP in the pending process?

Q2: Could you please outline which barriers you see to accelerate the alignment process?

Q3: Could you please let us know, which measures you see to accelerate the process?

Thank you in advance for your answers and clarifications.



Ismail Ertug



Manfred Weber



Peter Jahr



Matthias Ecke