

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Authority and Brief

1.1.1 In May 2002 a consortium led by Colin Buchanan and Partners (CBP) supported by Pegasus Transconsult Ltd (PTC) was appointed by the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission (the Commission) to undertake a study into “Vehicle Identification and Registration” (Contract No 2002/B27040B/E2/SO7.11682/ETU).

1.1.2 The study’s purpose was to investigate the way in which rail vehicles are identified and placed into service, in the context of the changing organisational structure of the rail industry; with specific emphasis on the operation of the Single Market and compliance with EU legislation and policy objectives in the sector.

1.1.3 The main tasks defined by the Commission were to:

- Examine the position of vehicle identification and registration in relation to current EU legislation.
- Analyse and describe current registration systems.
- Assess current reform projects
- Develop proposals for a European coding and registration system.

1.1.4 The Commission’s specification for this study is included as Appendix A to this Report; providing a full description of its requirements.

1.2 The Study Team

1.2.1 The Consortium consisted of the following members:

- Colin Buchanan and Partners (UK/Ireland)
- Pegasus Transconsult (UK)
- SchlumbergerSema (France/UK)
- Patricia Leefmans (The Netherlands)