

Press release

Brussels, 15 November 2018



CER welcomes Parliament MFF report

On 14 November the European Parliament, meeting in Strasbourg, approved the report on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, outlining the Parliament's position in view of the interinstitutional negotiations that should lead to an approval of the next MFF by mid-2019. The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) welcomes the Parliament's report and its ambition.

The Parliament's vote represents a call for Member States to commit more resources to the EU budget, thereby allowing stronger investments in all policy areas that fall under the competence of the Union. In particular, CER supports the call for an increased CEF envelope for transport (EUR 17.7 billion against the 11.3 billion proposed by the European Commission), more resources for the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the Regional Development Fund (ERDF), additional budget for Horizon Europe and a new envelope of EUR 300 million for sustainable tourism, as well as the backing granted to the DiscoverEU project.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *"We are pleased by the Parliament's strong stand in favour of sustainable transport – this is a mark of confidence in the benefits of rail. We now look to the Council: we know that negotiations are difficult among Member States, and that it will not be easy to find an interinstitutional agreement. This is why today we ask for transparency in the process: we are convinced that stakeholders should have the right to follow the process, and that they could help find reasonable solutions on all policies".*

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About CER

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 railway undertakings, their national associations as well as infrastructure managers and vehicle leasing companies. The membership is made up of long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public enterprises, representing 73% of the rail network length, 83% of the rail freight business and about 95% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policy makers and transport stakeholders, advocating rail as the backbone of a competitive and sustainable transport system in Europe. For more information, visit www.cer.be or follow [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways) on Twitter.