

Press release

Brussels, 2 April 2024



EU TRANSPORT SECTOR: More EU budget for transport needed

Forty-four European transport organisations, representing a broad spectrum of Europe’s transport network, are joining forces to urge the Council and European Parliament to increase the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) budget for transport in the upcoming review of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF). The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) is among the coalition members kicking off the campaign at the Connecting Europe Days this week.

The transport sector is of strategic importance in the response to Europe’s geostrategic, environmental, and capacity challenges. Recent and ongoing crises have shown yet again that Europe must have a strong, adaptable, and innovative transport sector at its core if it is to respond effectively to massive disruptions, and safeguard its supply chain sovereignty. **If Europe is to strengthen its resilience, be a leader in the shift to net-zero transport, and finally complete the Trans-European Transport Network, it must translate its words into deeds and reflect these ambitions in the new EU budget for transport.**

The massive oversubscription of the current CEF transport budget underlines that the ambitions and challenges of the transport sector are high, yet are not being met with the necessary EU support. The necessary takeaway for European leaders and policymakers should be clear: this is the moment for Europe to reverse the trend of continued underfunding of the transport sector and to set the bar high. A strong CEF instrument for transport is the best guarantee to deliver high EU added value, foster a level playing field across Europe and enable no-regret investments.

A [campaign leaflet](#) outlining the coalition’s call for more EU budget for transport will be officially handed over to the Commission during the Connecting Europe Days, on 4 April at 5:30pm (venue: Gold Hall).

CER Executive Director Alberto Mazzola said *“Massive investments are needed to implement the current TEN-T Regulation, with total investment needs over the period 2021-2030 estimated at about EUR 500 billion for the TEN-T Core Network (on average EUR 50 billion per year), and at about EUR 1.5 trillion for the TEN-T Comprehensive Network and for other transport investments up to 2050. In the next MFF, we call for the Connecting Europe Facility to cover at least EUR 100 billion. This is essential if we want transport to be sustainable, resilient, and seamless. No one has ever regretted investing in transport.”*

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About CER

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together around 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, 76% of the rail freight business and about 92% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policymakers 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 us on Twitter [@CER_railways](https://twitter.com/CER_railways) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cer).