

Safeguarding CEF Transport Funding in the Next EU Multiannual Financial Framework

Europe cannot afford to compromise its competitiveness, connectivity, or security.

The Finnish transport and mobility sector, business community, cities, municipalities and regions strongly welcomed the European Commission's proposal to maintain the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) as a dedicated, centrally managed EU funding instrument under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Preserving CEF's independent status, rather than integrating it into national funding envelopes or broader financing instruments, is essential for delivering genuine European added value.

We also warmly welcomed the Commission's original proposal to significantly increase funding for both transport infrastructure and military mobility compared with the current financial period. These investments are critical to strengthening Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy.

We are therefore concerned by the latest Irish Presidency negotiating box, which proposes reductions to both the general transport and military mobility components of CEF, as well as by any further proposals that could lead to even deeper cuts in these strategically vital funding allocations.

Europe needs more investment in transport infrastructure, not less. Improving competitiveness requires modern, efficient, multimodal transport networks that eliminate bottlenecks and develop new cross-border connections within the EU and with neighbouring countries. Reliable transport and logistics are indispensable for the functioning of the Single Market and European businesses.

At the same time, the deteriorating security environment calls for substantial investments in transport infrastructure that supports military mobility, security of supply and crisis preparedness. Civilian and military transport needs are increasingly interconnected, making sufficient EU-level funding more important than ever.

Furthermore, Europe must accelerate the transition away from imported fossil fuels towards domestically produced renewable and zero-emission energy. Developing the necessary transport and energy infrastructure, alongside enabling automated and

autonomous mobility, requires significant investment. A strong CEF is indispensable for achieving these objectives.

Our Call to EU Decision-Makers

The Finnish transport and mobility sector, business community, cities, municipalities and regions urge the Council and Member States to:

1. **Preserve CEF as a strong, independent and centrally managed EU funding instrument**
2. **Reject the proposed reductions to CEF Transport and military mobility funding**, maintaining at least the ambition and funding levels of the Commission's original proposal.
3. **Recognise transport infrastructure as a strategic investment** in European competitiveness, security, resilience and the clean energy transition.

Cutting CEF funding would be a short-sighted decision at a time when Europe urgently needs to invest in its future. A stronger, better-connected and more secure Europe requires a stronger CEF — not a weaker one.



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