



## **Europe's transport sector joins forces in an open letter to the EU Member States: A competitive and resilient Europe requires a stronger EU transport budget**

**Brussels, 24 February 2026 – A total of 45 European transport organisations are joining forces and collectively urge national governments to strengthen European funding for transport under the future EU budget and particularly to increase the budget of the future Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to at least €100 billion.**

A robust European transport network is of crucial importance in responding to Europe's strategic objectives. Only with strong and state-of-the-art transport infrastructure at its core, will Europe be able to ramp up its resilience and military preparedness, reinforce its industrial competitiveness and safeguard its supply chain sovereignty. The sector is ready to deliver but cannot do so without adequate support.

While the ambitions and the investment needs are high, the sector continues to struggle with pressing underfunding and financing gaps. This trend of continued underfunding of the transport sector must be reversed, and the EU Member States must set the bar high.

With another round of discussions on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034 coming up during the General Affairs Council taking place on 24 February, **all the signatory European transport organisations in an [open letter](#) ask the General Affairs and Finance Ministers to safeguard sufficient EU budget for transport under the future MFF and particularly strengthen the future CEF instrument.** Because European support to the sector is now more pertinent than ever.

**Carole Coune, Secretary General of AERRL said:** "Public funding must be used strategically. In the current context of a growing market, EU subsidy programs or State aid to infrastructure should be granted to support the electrification of access routes to the rolling stock maintenance facilities and industrial areas as well as to the extension of the access routes to these facilities and industrial areas. In the field of rolling stock, public funds must be used for the deployment of ERTMS, FRMCS, DAC and all research and development projects likely to facilitate cross-border operations or prepare for the end of diesel traction."



**Association of European Rail Rolling Stock Lessors**

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