

PRESS RELEASE

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EIM: Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027

On 6th June, the European Commission presented its proposal for the Connecting Europe Facility Regulation as part of the next Multiannual Financial Framework for the period of 2021-2027. The proposal foresees €12.8 billion for the general CEF Transport envelope, €11.3 billion for the contribution from the Cohesion Fund, and €6.5 billion for the military mobility.

EIM – the Association representing rail infrastructure managers in Europe – welcomes the Commission’s proposal but acknowledges that there is still a long way ahead to tackle the challenges of the railway sector. Their needs are substantially increasing every year therefore a stronger transport budget is essential to complete the TEN-T Network. In particular, the proposal does not envisage enough budget for the ERTMS deployment, critical for the interoperability and safety but also for the rail competitiveness.

EIM welcomes the 60% of dedicated CEF Transport on “efficient and interconnected networks” and the remaining 40% on “smart, sustainable, inclusive, safe and secure mobility”, being in line with the rail sector’s priorities. In addition, EIM has a positive view on the new aspect of the CEF budget which will be used for the support of the dual military-civilian use of infrastructure.

Monika Heiming, EIM’s Executive Director, said: *“Transport is the backbone of the European economy and CEF is a crucial tool that helps us deliver the sector’s objectives. By strengthening CEF and completing the TEN-T Network, we can meet customers’ expectations and have a truly Single European Railway Area.”*

For information please contact:

Marina Potapidou
EU Policy Advisor
Phone +32 2 234 37 71
Mobile +32 485 80 12 75
E-mail marina.potapidou@eimrail.org

EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established in 2002 to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following the liberalisation of the EU railway market. It also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies such as the European Union Agency for Railways. EIM’s primary goal is promoting growth of rail traffic and the development of an open sustainable, efficient, customer orientated rail network in Europe.