

EU transport sector: Europe more than ever in need of more budget for transport

43 European transport organisations, representing the key spectrum of Europe's transport network, are again joining forces in a campaign to urge the Council and the European Parliament to increase the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) budget for transport in the upcoming review of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

Brussels, 02 April 2024

The transport sector is of strategic importance in responding to Europe's geostrategic, environmental and capacity challenges. Recent and ongoing crises have proven once again that only with a strong, adaptable and innovative transport sector at its core, Europe will be able to respond effectively to massive disruptions and safeguard its supply chain sovereignty. If Europe is to strengthen its resilience, lead the shift to net-zero 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 oversubscriptions of the current CEF transport budget underline once again that the ambitions and challenges of the transport sector are high, yet they are not met with the necessary EU support. The take-away 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 set the bar high. A strong CEF instrument for transport is the best guarantee to deliver high added value, foster a level playing field across Europe and enable no regret investments.

The leaflet of the transport campaign for the review of the next EU budget is attached and available [here](#).

Eero Lehtovaara, Chair of the Board of Directors, Waterborne TP, said: *"This joint campaign signed by 43 transport Associations showcases the strength of cooperation between the different segments of the sector, and the commitments to the green and digital transition. However, it also clearly indicates the vulnerability of the current budgetary situation. The transition to a zero-emission, digital, automated, safe and competitive sector requires massive investments today and tomorrow, to ensure we meet the policy objectives. This can only be achieved by sufficient financial support to proceed with high capital, high risk investments, supporting the competitiveness of the sector. Only by sufficient funding for research, development, innovation, and the deployment of innovations by means of CEF, we are able to achieve the targets in a sustainable and competitive way."*

WATERBORNE TP has been set up as an industry-oriented Technology Platform to establish a continuous dialogue between all waterborne stakeholders, such as classification societies, shipbuilders, shipowners, maritime equipment manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, universities or research institutes, and with the EU Institutions, including Member States (www.waterborne.eu). The members of Waterborne TP comprise members as well as associated members from both maritime and inland navigation countries, representing about 19 Member States. In addition, the Associations member of the Waterborne Technology Platform represent the broader waterborne sector throughout the entire EU.

Enquiries concerning how to join and become more closely involved in the "Zero-Emission Waterborne Transport" partnership or other activities of the Waterborne TP can be sent to: Jaap Gebraad, Secretary General Waterborne TP, jaap.gebraad@waterborne.eu, tel: +32 493 835 626