

Press Release
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CER urges Member States to support growth and jobs

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) urges EU Member States and the European Parliament to safeguard the 32 billion EUR budget for transport infrastructure in the 2014-2020 EU budget. Member States should resist the temptation to protect traditional redistributive policies at the expense of budget areas that generate growth and jobs.

Meeting in Brussels on 22-23 November, EU Heads of State will continue their intense negotiations on the new on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) which will define the EU's budget for the years 2014-2020.

Overall, the railway sector supports the European Commission's proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which emphasises policies with a high European added value, such as the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), which is to finance infrastructure projects in transport, energy and ICT. In such programmes, investments at the European level are particularly useful due to their synergy effects. Bottlenecks and missing links in the transport system can be more effectively addressed if investments are coordinated at EU level.

The budget of EUR 32 billion (or about 3% of the overall MFF) proposed by the Commission for transport under CEF is realistic and necessary in order to reach the targets the EU has set itself in the area of transport. As a minimum, the compromise proposal presented by Council President Herman van Rompuy, which secures EUR 29.660 billion for transport, should be supported.

CER Executive Director Libor Lochman said: *"Achieving a sustainable, integrated and multi-modal transport network, covering and interconnecting all Member States and regions must be seen as an essential investment in growth and jobs."*

Notes to the Editor:

- CER is one of more than 1000 stakeholders who have signed the [declaration supporting CEF](#).
- The transport sector also issued a joint statement calling upon Member States and the European Parliament to safeguard the EUR 32bn budget in April 2012. The statement is available on the [CER website](#).

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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together 80 European railway undertakings and infrastructure companies. CER represents the interests of its members towards the European institutions as well as other policy makers and transport actors. CER's main focus is promoting the strengthening of rail as essential to the creation of a sustainable transport system which is efficient, effective and environmentally sound. For more information, see www.cer.be

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