

ASECAP PRESS RELEASE

Fair pricing for sustainable transport, ASECAP says

ASECAP, the European Association of operators of tolled road infrastructures, welcomes today's adoption of the European Commission's White Paper on Transport, "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area", which contains recommendations aimed at improving the EU's transport system in the next decades.

Not only dedicated to but also operating and managing safe, smart and green road infrastructures, ASECAP members would like to recall the readiness of the European tolled road concessionaires to translate the vision and strategy formulated in the White Paper into viable actions on their infrastructure networks.

User-Payer Principle

Above all, ASECAP welcomes the full recognition of the "user-payer principle" by the European Commission to finance roads and to make land transport really sustainable. Over 40 years, ASECAP motorways have demonstrated that tolling is the most efficient tool to finance the construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of high-quality road infrastructures, thus providing an excellent service to the road users while respecting the environment. Even more so in time of budget scarcity, the concession model and Public Private Partnerships are excellent instruments to ensure continuity in road infrastructure investments, and therefore to increase mobility and growth in the EU.

Polluter-Payer Principle

The White Paper also refers to the right price signals — including through a wider application of the polluter-payer principle — so as to align market choices with sustainability needs. In this respect, ASECAP would like to repeat, with insistence, that a level playing field between the different transport modes can never be achieved through artificial co-modality. Consequently, it needs to be ensured that every internalisation of external costs in the road sector actually results in reducing the negative externalities in the regions concerned.

Safe, secure and smart transport

ASECAP also welcomes the fact that the White Paper gives due consideration to road safety as the key ingredient of sustainable land transport. Although issues pertaining to security, interoperability, research and innovation are rightly addressed, ASECAP would like to stress the importance of moving from ideas and theories to actual results and real deployment for the benefit of the European citizen.



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For ASECAP, a proper understanding requires defining the value chain and its links, and permanently involving *all* the relevant stakeholders, starting from the public and private infrastructure managers. In particular for the deployment of cooperative Intelligent Transport System (ITS), due account has to be taken of the different stakeholders, their capacities and their readiness to innovate at coordinated speeds of innovation. ITS is not just an acronym in fashion, but an instrument to link cooperative systems and produce a quality service at an affordable cost for the society. ASECAP motorways once more confirm their readiness to fully play their part in this process.

ASECAP leading the way

The White Paper asserts that in a near future road users would increasingly pay the full cost of their transport in exchange for less congestion, more information, better service and more safety. ASECAP and the millions of drivers who choose to use the tolled motorway network every day are already adhering to this principle and putting into practice the European Commission's orientations, thus paving the way towards a better transport system, using smart pricing for a greener mobility.

Notes to Editors:

ASECAP is the European Association of operators of tolled road infrastructures. It gathers 20 national members managing more than 42.000 km of road networks. ASECAP's mission is to promote tolling and the direct user-payer principle as the most efficient tool to finance the construction, safe operation and effective maintenance of motorways and other major road infrastructures.