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**ASECAP WELCOMES THE EU RECOVERY PLAN
AND STRESSES THE WILL OF TOLL ROAD OPERATORS TO PROPOSE CONCRETE
ACTION PLANS TO SUPPORT EU ECONOMY LIKEWISE ANY INDUSTRIAL SECTOR**

ASECAP and its members are welcoming the agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the Recovery and Resilience Facility, a key instrument at the heart of Next Generation EU. The European plan will finance national programs in all the Member States, in the form of subsidies and loans and each Member State will submit its plans to the European Commission to foster economic recovery.

While being hit hard by the pandemic crisis and the related restrictive measures, the toll road operators worked hard to keep their motorways (near 88,000 km that almost cover the whole TEN-T core network) in operation during the emergency, providing critical connections by linking key economic centers and connecting major ports and airports. They have demonstrated their crucial role in supplying goods and in moving EU citizens, thus contributing to the proper functioning of the EU Internal Market.

Likewise any other activity sector, the economic impact of the crisis has hit the motorway sector very hard, as traffic decreased significantly (by 25% - 30% in average for 2020 compared with 2019). It is of utmost importance that common measures will be taken to secure the whole ecosystem chain including highway operators and service areas companies ensuring food, beverage and fuel distribution, EETS providers and work construction companies which employ more than 200,000 persons.

Moreover, motorway operators have already started to make the shift to greener mobility. More investments for mobility are needed as European cities are increasing in size and the population. Time for commuting, congestion, air pollution and noise are increasing everywhere in Europe. To face those challenges, toll road infrastructure operators are ready to propose concrete plans to boost new mobility frameworks and contribute to decarbonization of road transport, thus reaching the target of carbon-free emission by 2050, as well as promoting digitalisation (including multimodal and autonomous transports and the deployment of alternative fuels' infrastructure). That will allow to improve quality of life for citizens and that will also be an important opportunity to create jobs.

However, the need for support and equal treatment from the EU and Members states is essential to allow the motorway sector to submit plans fulfilling the requirement of boosting the economy and creating jobs. The EU recovery and resilience facility to face the Covid-19 crisis should be split equally among all the EU key industrial sectors.

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ASECAP strongly requests the European Commission and the EU National Governments to integrate road infrastructure into the Economic Recovery plan. More specifically ASECAP would like to highlight the following needs:

- Road transport is critical for providing EU citizens with the goods and the mobility that are essential for their health and well-being and will be major enablers for a sustainable and resilient recovery of Europe's economy from the pandemic.
- Toll road infrastructure operators are ready to propose concrete plans to boost new mobility frameworks and contribute to decarbonization of road transport to reach the target of carbon-free emission by 2050 as well as digitalization;
- Road Infrastructure and more specific motorways, as backbone of the road network, strongly affected by the pandemic but at the same time supporting the resilience of the EU transport chain, should be strongly supported and taken into account by the EU Recovery Plan;
- Public and Private road operators should be equally treated by Member States' and EU's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The EU Recovery and Resilience Plan should be equally applicable without differentiating between public and private roads by the Member States. Toll road concessions should have the same benefits and rights as the other roads.
- Each State should apply the proper financial supporting plan, applicable to the model of each road project by respecting the balance of the existing contracts. Funding solutions should include all the possible tools, like subsidies, loans, investments or extensions of the existing concessions contracts.

Thus, ASECAP would like to call on the:

- Member States to put forward in their recovery and resilience plans measures facilitating economically and socially the investments for a carbon free road transport infrastructure and for the digitalization of the road mobility, under an equal basis;
- European Commission to evaluate the prominence of economically and socially sustainable road transport measures in their assessment of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans.

About ASECAP:

ASECAP is the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures across 21 member countries representing 142 companies employing more than 50.000 direct jobs and 200.000 indirect jobs. They operate, maintain, manage a network of more than 88.000 km with a long-term vision that ensures highest quality standards to make the road infrastructure safest, greener than to the user/payer principle, providing sustainable financing.

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