

ASECAP Feedback on CEF Evaluation

ASECAP, the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures across 18 member countries representing 124 companies would like to provide feedback to the Connection Europe Facility evaluation.

As motorway operators we strongly support the European Commission's orientations focusing on the decarbonization of transports aiming at eliminating CO2 emissions and addressing climate issues. Innovation efforts allow to optimize the efficiency of the network and ASECAP members have been very much committed to implement the ITS-directive. ASECAP fully supports automated driving, believing that connected and automated driving contributes to enhancement of road safety, efficiency to achieve environmental objectives and accessibility, comfort as well as social inclusion to all users.

The CEF funding was and is Europe's booster to achieve the set goals by the European commission. In the field of ITS, the **Arc Atlantique Corridor, Crocodile, MedTIS, NEXT-ITS, X4ITS, NAPCORE and URSA Major Corridor** are examples that show the progress made possible by CEF. The development and deployment of new traffic management services, multimodal and cross-network implementations, more detailed real-time travel and traffic information were key to increase traffic safety and efficiency on Europe's road-network. Most importantly, through extensive standardization and harmonization efforts, profiles like DATEX II now lay the basis for cross border cooperation and exchange of traffic-information all over Europe.

Further, CEF funding allows to deploy harmonised and interoperable technologies boosting innovation first and foremost in the field of C-ITS. The **C-ROADS** projects accelerated Europe's V2X deployments across all sectors – putting Europe in the leading position. Already today, the C-ITS ecosystem comprises vehicles, special vehicles, road infrastructure and public transport – with vulnerable road users projects (persons, bicycles, scooters) extending the ecosystem as a next step. EU-wide harmonized standards and message specifications are now the base and backbone for future services and users ready to join the C-ITS ecosystem and operate together with existing services.

With the electrification of traffic to reach the targeted CO2 emissions reduction, motorways, including TEN-T sectors, will have an important role to distribute the demand of electrical energy. The **AFIR** program is a significant accelerator to develop the energy infrastructure along Europe's road network but it will require important investments which could be foster by CEF.

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All in all, the CEF program is the main booster for the development of future services and infrastructure. Without this incentive, the harmonised deployment achieved on the European network would not have been possible.

It has allowed to stabilised data communication protocole, harmonised cross border traffic information services allowing to improve road safety and enhance congestion. Deployment of green alternative fuel on all TENT-T network and above is a priority if we want to achieve net zero carbon by 2090. It will be the same for vision zero fatalities with safe system approach with the deployment of tolls allowing to have "forgiving road" which will be possible only if the infrastructure is fully digitalised so that there will be enhanced traffic management allowing perfect interaction between vehicles and infrastructure being "connected" to supply human mistakes and providing strong . CEF funding is a crucial enabler to achieve the set goals for a sustainable future.

Tomorrow's road operator not just provide safe and secure roads – they will have to decarbonise the infrastructure, distribute the energy for future mobility services and provide smart services to increase road safety and efficiency. In order to continue doing it in a harmonised way and to foster it, CEF fundings will be necessary to continue incentives.

About ASECAP:

ASECAP is the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures across 18 member countries representing 124 companies employing more than 46.000 direct jobs and 200.000 indirect jobs. They operate, maintain, manage a network of more than 81.000 km with a long-term vision that ensures highest quality standards to make the road infrastructure safest thank to the user/payer principle providing sustainable financing.

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