

Infrastructure Taxation: ASECAP Warns of the Implications of the Proposed Increase in the TEITLD (*the tax on the operation of long-distance transport infrastructure*)

Excessive taxation of tolled road infrastructures would undermine private investment, the transition to sustainable mobility and European competitiveness

Brussels, 16 October – ASECAP, the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures, wishes to draw the attention of the European institutions to the economic and industrial implications of the French Government's proposed increase in the tax on the operation of long-distance transport infrastructure (*taxe sur l'exploitation des infrastructures de transport de longue distance – TEITLD*), as part of the draft Finance Bill for 2027.

Under the arrangements announced, this increase would fall almost exclusively on French motorway concessionaires. It would bring the share of toll revenue collected by the State in the form of taxes, duties and fees to more than 50%, even though the State is already the main beneficiary of toll revenues.

A Measure That Could Undermine Infrastructure Investment

French motorway concessionaires invest every year in road user safety, network maintenance and modernisation, as well as in adapting infrastructure to electric and shared mobility.

A further increase in taxation would reduce their capacity to finance investment at a time when road infrastructure must support the decarbonisation of transport, the rollout of electric mobility and evolving travel patterns.

This measure could also weaken French and European companies recognised for their expertise in the management, operation and modernisation of infrastructure. It would undermine the concession model which, by relying on user charges paid by those who use the infrastructure, has enabled Europe to develop high-quality transport infrastructure that forms the backbone of trade and economic exchange across our continent, where roads carry more than 80% of transport of passengers and goods.

Safeguarding Legal Certainty and Investor Confidence

Beyond its immediate financial impact, the proposed change raises a fundamental question regarding the stability of the contractual and regulatory framework. Infrastructure requires substantial investment over the long term. Its financing therefore depends on predictable rules and respect for the commitments made between public authorities and private operators.

Undermining this balance would send a negative signal to French, European and international investors, at a time when mobilising private capital is essential to financing the energy transition and modernising Europe's infrastructure, military mobility EU plan. It also contradicts the principles of the Public Procurement Act regarding the necessary balance of the contracts.

A Matter of European Competitiveness

Against a backdrop of intensifying international competition for access to financing, Europe must offer investors a stable, transparent and predictable environment.

Excessive taxation concentrated on a limited number of operators risks reducing investment capacity, increasing financing costs and undermining the attractiveness of long-term infrastructure projects.

ASECAP therefore calls on the European institutions to pay particular attention to:

- compliance with the principles of legal certainty and respect for contractual commitments;
- the proportionality of taxation applicable to infrastructure;
- safeguarding operators' capacity to invest;
- financing the ecological and energy transition of mobility;
- maintaining a level playing field between different transport modes and operators;
- the competitiveness of European infrastructure companies.

Modernisation and decarbonisation of transport require a long-term partnership between public authorities and operators. They also depend on a proportionate, consistent and sufficiently stable regulatory and tax framework that enables companies to invest over the long term.

About ASECAP

Europe's road network forms the backbone of the efficient movement of goods and people across the continent. It is built, operated, maintained and repaired with a long-term vision to ensure the highest standards of quality.

ASECAP – the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures – represents operators of toll road infrastructure across Europe. The ASECAP network comprises more than 82,500 km of motorways, bridges, and tunnels and other toll roads across 17 member countries (Austria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey), managed by 129 companies. ASECAP also has four Advisory Industry Partners: KAPSCH, KONTRON, NIVI S.p.A. and ETIKA CONSULTING.

ASECAP's mission is to defend and promote the toll motorway and road infrastructure model in Europe, based on the user-pays principle, as an effective means of ensuring the financing of infrastructure construction, maintenance and operation.

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