



11 September 2018

New CEF must be coherent in addressing and supporting transport accessibility for all users

Dear Members of the European Parliament,
Dear Members of the TRAN and BUDG Committee,

On 6 of June 2018, the Commission presented its proposal COM(2018) 438 final on establishing the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the implementing tool of the TEN-T network as defined in Regulation 1315/2013. As such, the CEF plays a vital role in delivering on the commitment of the European Union to make transport accessible for all users, including persons with disabilities and older persons. To achieve accessible transport services, project funding should take into account the designing and constructing of accessible transport infrastructure.

In this respect only the projects which provide European added value and contribute to the objectives of the TEN-T Guidelines should be eligible for CEF funding.

In particular, article 37 of the current TEN-T Guidelines acknowledges that “transport infrastructure shall allow seamless mobility and accessibility for all users, in particular elderly people, persons of reduced mobility and passengers with a disability”. Therefore **existing links within the regulatory framework should be kept, if not strengthened, in the upcoming discussions on the new Connecting Europe Facility.**

Thus, the signatories

- welcome that the Commission has established a link in its proposal with article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 and call on the European Parliament to maintain article 9(2)(b)viii as proposed by the Commission.

Furthermore, we recommend that

- **the provisions concerning the accessibility of transport infrastructure for all users are supported as proposed by the Commission.**
- **the objective of accessibility for all users, including persons with disabilities and older persons are reflected in the eligibility criteria, the award criteria and in the monitoring.**
- **in case of passenger transport infrastructure, funding allocated under the CEF should, where applicable, prioritise projects promoting accessibility for all users, including persons with disabilities and older persons, as well as those that implement existing EU rules on transport infrastructure accessibility, such as Regulation 1300/2014 (TSI-PRM) for the rail sector.**

Finally, the signing associations call on the European Parliament to recognise the importance of **sufficient funding opportunities** for projects enhancing transport accessibility for all users. To support such projects in addition to other TEN-T priorities concerning the railway sector, e.g. its digital

transformation, including ERTMS deployment, and the completion of the TEN-T network, **we recommend a significant increase of the proposed CEF budgetary resources for transport.**

Sincerely,

AGE Platform Europe,

EDF, the European Disability Forum,

EPF, European Passengers' Federation

And CER, the Community of European Railway and infrastructure companies.

The signatories of this letter are representing a wide coalition of European organisations acting on behalf of the rail transport industry as well as passengers.



AGE Platform Europe, the voice of older persons at EU level. AGE Platform Europe is a European network of non-profit organisations of and for people aged 50+, which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 190 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most



The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 railway undertakings, their national associations as well as infrastructure managers and vehicle leasing companies. CER members represent 73% of the European rail network length, 77% of the European freight business and 93% of rail passenger operations in Europe.



The European Disability Forum is an independent NGO that represents the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities. EDF is a unique platform which brings together representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe. EDF is run by persons with disabilities and their families. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe



The European Passengers' Federation (EPF) campaigns for passenger rights throughout Europe by conducting research, publishing reports, organising conferences and working constructively with transport operators and decision makers.

Annex:

For further information:

- [EDF's proposed amendments to the revised Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#)
- [CER Position Paper - Commission Proposal on Connecting Europe Facility](#)