



PRESS RELEASE

Europe's transport sector joins forces in an open letter to the EU Member States: A competitive and resilient Europe requires a stronger EU transport budget



BRUSSELS, 24 FEBRUARY 2026

A total of 45 European transport organisations are joining forces to urge national governments to strengthen European funding for transport under the future EU budget and particularly to increase the budget of the future Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to at least €100 billion.

A robust European transport network is of crucial importance in responding to Europe's strategic objectives. Only with strong and state-of-the-art transport infrastructure at its core, will Europe be able to ramp up its resilience and military preparedness, reinforce its industrial competitiveness and safeguard its supply chain sovereignty.

While the ambitions and the investment needs are high, the sector continues to struggle with pressing underfunding and financing gaps. This trend of continued underfunding of the transport sector must be reversed and the EU Member States must set the bar high.

With another round of discussions on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034 coming up during the General Affairs Council taking place on 24 February, all the signatory European transport organisations in an open letter ask the General Affairs and Finance Ministers to safeguard sufficient EU budget for transport under the future MFF and particularly strengthen the future CEF instrument. European support to the sector is now more pertinent than ever.

"Public transport is the backbone of sustainable mobility and key to Europe's climate and social goals. To achieve its strategic objectives, Europe must invest in a robust transport network. A modern Europe starts with strong local public transport. Let's make it a priority."

Thomas Avanzata, European Affairs Lead, UITP

Read the joint open letter in full

UITP in Europe



ABOUT UITP EUROPE

UITP is the international association representing public transport stakeholders. In the European Union, UITP brings together more than **500 urban, suburban, and regional public transport operators, and authorities from all Member States**. We represent the perspective of short distance passenger transport services by all sustainable modes: **bus, regional and suburban rail, metro, light rail, tram and waterborne**.

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