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EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION  
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**FIEC Press Release**

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## **YES to a stronger EU budget for transport!**

■ **"FIEC fully supports the Parliament's position in favour of a stronger EU budget for transport from 2020, with grants remaining the major component," said FIEC President Kjetil Tønning, following the vote of the European Parliament on the Connecting Europe Facility, on 12<sup>th</sup> December. "FIEC believes that investing in transport, and particularly in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), is crucial for Europe's growth and jobs," he added.**

**FIEC points out that the amount allocated remains fundamental. Current Commission proposals, in the context of future negotiations in the Council, are insufficient to meet current needs.**

Indeed, FIEC considers that transport infrastructure projects are vital for the EU's competitiveness. They require a strong commitment from the EU and national public authorities. Moreover, the increases in the co-financing rate for cross-border projects will help to bring the crucial leverage effect to complete projects of European interest.

Furthermore, FIEC welcomes:

- the consideration of infrastructure safety. However, regarding the huge needs in terms of infrastructure rehabilitation and upgrading all over the EU, FIEC regrets that the focus is not more on the maintenance and – deep – renovation of hard infrastructure.
- the new approach on the dual use of infrastructure, for both civilian and military purposes. FIEC is pleased to note that the European Parliament and the Council of the EU share this new approach.
- the promotion of synergies between transport, energy and digital technology that support innovation in the field of infrastructure.
- the European Parliament's proposal to promote reciprocity in public procurement when EU grants are engaged.

Finally, FIEC stresses that coherence must be ensured between the CEF and other EU policies, especially regarding actions dedicated to infrastructure under the cohesion policy (ERDF and Cohesion Funds), at a local and regional level.