

【欧州】 【Common】

Common: European Commission accelerates support of civil-defence dual-use of transport infrastructure projects under the 2021 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport call

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【概要 : Summary】

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is the EU's main funding instrument for financing the development and deployment of trans-European transport infrastructure projects. It supports investments in the Core Network for its completion by 2030, and the Comprehensive Network by 2050. Regarding the EU's action against climate change, and the EU's long-term environmental and sustainability targets, the CEF is expected to help achieving the EU's decarbonisation commitments, and to contribute to the efforts to making the transport network more sustainable. Besides the support of sustainable transport infrastructure, the CEF Transport also grants funding to transport infrastructure projects that have a dual-use of civilian and defence purpose.

Accordingly, since the start of the Russian invasion and war in Ukraine, the granting of funds for dual-use transport infrastructures has achieved increased attention within the EU. The European Commission has accelerated the evaluation of the military mobility related proposals and the granting of funds for civilian-defence dual-use infrastructure projects under the CEF Transport call 2021. Out of the total of 37 listed projects selected under the 2021 CEF Transport call, there were selected 22 project

proposals under the CEF's 2021 Military Mobility call for dual civil defence use. Their funding amounts to a total of EUR 339 million. The other accelerated projects, selected under the CEF Transport call 2021 are intended to increase energy efficiency and the deployment of infrastructure projects for achieving the zero-emission mobility target.

Examples of transport projects under the Military Mobility call include railway infrastructure upgrades to allow for the circulation of larger and heavier trains, as well as works to increase the capacity of ports and airports, and the strengthening road bridges, among others.

Furthermore, the Commission also decided to advance the CEF's 2nd Military Mobility call from later in 2022 to its launch on 12 May 2022, underlining the increased importance to deploy the civilian and defence dual-use projects under the CEF Transport funding.

【記事 : Article】

1. The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for funding the EU's transport infrastructure
Based on Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and the Council of 7 July 2021, the EU introduced its new Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funding instrument for accelerating investments in the field of Trans-

European Networks and to leverage funding from both the public and the private sectors, and enabling synergies between the transport, energy, and digital sectors (Regulation (EU) 2021/1153). The Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 establishes the CEF for the Multiannual Financial Framework (the “MFF”) period of 2021–2027 and repeals Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 (Regulation (EU) 2021/1153). The EU’s CEF is a key funding instrument for financing the establishment and expansion of the EU’s TEN in the fields of transport, energy, and digital services (European Commission n.y.). Since 2014, under the 2014–2020 budget, CEF has supported more than 1,000 projects for a total amount of more than EUR 23 billion in the transport sector (CINEA 2022a). The European Commission centrally manages the CEF Programme, sets the political priorities and is responsible for the selection of projects through competitive calls for proposals. The formerly involved European Commission’s Innovation and Networks Executive Agency INEA was replaced by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) on 1 April 2021 to take over INEA’s portfolio, among others (European Commission 2022b). CINEA assists the Commission in the evaluation and selection of projects and for the overall technical and financial monitoring of project implementation (European Commission 2022a).

The CEF is expected to contribute to the EU’s action against climate change and to support environmentally and socially sustainable projects, including climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. Regarding the EU’s long-term environmental and sustainability targets, the CEF aims at achieving the EU’s decarbonisation commitments and smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth by supporting the funding of up-to-date, multimodal, high-performance infrastructure in its transport, energy, and digital sectors (Regulation (EU) 2021/1153).

In particular, the CEF is expected to contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement, and the EU’s 2030 climate and energy targets to reach a 55% GHG emission reduction within the “Fit for 55” package, and the long-term European Green Deal’s 2050 net-zero GHG emissions target (Regulation (EU) 2021/1153).

Regarding the EU’s transport infrastructure network, the CEF supports investments in the development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected infrastructure projects (European Commission n.y.). In addition to grants, the CEF offers financial support to projects through innovative financial instruments such as guarantees and project bonds, which also attracts funding from private and other public actors (European Commission n.y.).

The CEF Transport funding instrument aims at supporting investments in building new transport infrastructure in Europe or reconstructing and upgrading the existing transport network. The Trans-European Networks for Transport (TEN-T) policy objectives foresee the completion of the Core Network in a first phase until 2030. The Core Network is structured around nine multimodal pan-European Core Network Corridors, including the most important connections between urban nodes, to be completed by 2030 (European Commission 2022a). In the second phase up to 2050, the Comprehensive Network needs to be finalised to facilitate accessibility to all European regions (European Commission n.y.).

Regarding the Trans-European Networks for Transport (TEN-T) Network, the CEF focuses on cross-border projects and projects aiming at removing bottlenecks or bridging missing links in various sections of the Core Network and on the Comprehensive Network (European Commission n.y.). With its budget of €25.81 billion, the CEF Transport supports the reduction of the environmental impact of transport, but it also supports civilian-defence dual-use of transport projects (European Commission n.y.).

2. The 2021 CEF Transport Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) and Military Mobility calls

While the CEF Transport programme implements the EU's transport infrastructure policy by supporting investments in building or upgrading transport infrastructure in the Core Network and the Comprehensive Network, there was also a set of 13 calls of the Transport Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) and Military Mobility calls as part of the CEF's first calls 2021, launched on 16 September 2021 (European Commission 2022a).

The AFIF calls' objective is to boost alternative fuel supply infrastructure in transport, until the end of 2023. The Military Mobility call has the objective to develop infrastructure, adapted to improve jointly civil and defence mobility within the EU, with a focus on facilitating a dual-use of the infrastructure (European Commission 2022a).

The 2021 CEF Transport and Military Mobility calls were open for project proposals to apply for funding that would address works under both calls, of environment related use under the AFIF, or as dual-use of the infrastructure under the Military Mobility calls.

The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) received 48 application proposals, for a total of EUR 548.5 million of requested co-funding by the call's deadline of 19 January 2022 (European Commission 2022a, CINEA 2022a). Out of these, 37 project proposals were selected for funding for a total of EUR 425 million under the 2021 Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility and Military Mobility calls for proposals. Under the AFIF calls, 15 project proposals were selected for a total funding of EUR 86 million to deliver on a more environmentally sustainable transport network (European Commission 2022a, 2022c). Under the Military Mobility call, 22 project proposals were selected for funding, for a total of EUR 339

million to upgrade key infrastructure for dual civil-defence use (CINEA 2022a).

The AFIF proposals range from projects for developing and constructing electricity recharging stations with super chargers along the TEN-T road network to the deployment of hydrogen refuelling stations for cars, trucks and buses and the electrification of ground handling services in airports. The CEF 2021 call's first selection under the AFIF is in line with the European Green Deal goals and increasing the EU's energy independence (CINEA 2022b). Therefore, the CEF will help Europe's transport network move away from reliance on fossil fuels. The call remains open with further deadlines at regular intervals until 19 September 2023. The next cut-off date is 7 June 2022 (CINEA 2022a).

3. European Commission accelerates granting of funds for civilian-defence dual-use transport infrastructure projects under the CEF Transport

Regarding the Military Mobility call under the CEF 2021 call's first selection, the CEF transport infrastructure projects also fund projects with civilian-defence dual-use that will help the EU not only to achieve the climate targets but that also are critical for the EU's security and defence. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, this Military Mobility Call under the CEF 2021 first selection has entered the centre of attention with its dual-use civilian-defence projects, which are important transport infrastructures for civil but also for defence purposes within the EU (CINEA 2022a). The new CEF co-funded projects are emphasising the EU targets to decarbonise the transport sector, and at the same time, they are a reaction to the ongoing geopolitical crisis with the Russian war in Ukraine, according to the Director of CINEA, Dirk Beckers (CINEA 2022a).

The CEF Transport call's 22 military mobility projects worth EUR 339 million have been selected

among those submitted under calls for proposals issued under the CEF and they are critical also for the EU's security, as these projects can facilitate the movement of military troops and assets leading to more efficient deployment of the EU's missions on the ground, according to Commissioner for Transport Adina Vălean (European Commission 2022c).

The examples of military mobility transport projects under the Military Mobility call include railway infrastructure upgrades to allow for circulation of larger and heavier trains, as well as works to increase of the capacity of ports and airports, as well as strengthening road bridges. (CINEA 2022a, 2022c).

More precisely, the proposals under the 2021 MILMOB Military Mobility envelope include the financing of construction of tracks to accommodate 740 meter long trains between the Port of Antwerp and the German Border, the Smejalka bridge Motorway D1 in Czech Republic, the improvement of the infrastructure for 740m trains on Corridor North Sea-Baltic, enhancing multimodal military mobility and improving dual-use transport links in Estonia, the development of the rail traffic between two Member States and Corridors with the electrification of Laurila-Tornio-Haparanda railway between Sweden and Finland, the clearance of the military and civil gauge in the Mussuguet Tunnel France, Adaptation of TEN-T railway stations in Western Hungary to civilian and military dual-use, upgrading projects to 740m train length of Pontedera and Palmanova Stations in Italy, rehabilitation of bridges and viaducts for civilian-military dual-use infrastructures in the ScanMed Corridor, A2 motorway - Friddizza viaduct in Italy, the development of Via Baltica road section from Marijampolė to the Lithuanian-Polish border, and the integration of the Military Mobility requirements in the Latvian part of the Rail Baltica Project (Part1) in Latvia, among others (CINEA 2022c).

Considering the increased importance of defence measures following the Russian invasion in the Ukraine also within the EU, the European Commission has accelerated the evaluation of the military mobility proposals under the CEF Transport and brought forward the awarding of grants for these dual-use military mobility projects (European Commission 2022c). Accordingly, CINEA started with the preparation of the individual grant agreements for these 22 selected project proposals to upgrade these key infrastructures in the civilian and defence dual-use with project beneficiaries (European Commission 2022a, CINEA 2022a). The EU's financial contribution are grants with different co-financing rates or Unit contributions depending on whether the project is located in a country eligible for Cohesion Fund support or not (CINEA 2022a).

Following the EU Member States' approval of the selected projects on 7 April 2022, the Commission will adopt formal financing decisions in the coming weeks (CINEA 2022a). Furthermore, the Commission also decided to advance the CEF's 2nd Military Mobility call. On 12 May 2022, earlier than originally planned, CINEA announced the launch of this call for proposals under the CEF for Transport programme, aiming at adjusting sections of the TEN-T network to the technical requirements on dimensions and capacity to address both, civilian and defence needs of infrastructures. (CINEA 2022a, 2022d). CINEA will make EUR 330 million available from the military mobility envelope (CINEA 2022d). Eligible applicants are one or more EU Member States and, with the agreement of the Member State(s) concerned, international organisations or public or private bodies established in an EU Member State. The deadline for submitting proposals will be 29 September 2022 at 17:00 CET (CINEA 2022d). Thereafter, the submitted proposals will be evaluated by the European Commission/CINEA in the period October to December 2022 and the

evaluation results will be submitted at the beginning of 2023. The grant agreements are expected to be signed with the successful applicants by June 2023 (CINEA 2022d). By making available further funding for adapting the TENT network for dual civilian and defence use, the EU continues to support the improvement of the mobility of military assets across the Trans-European Transport infrastructure.

4. Conclusion

The CEF is the EU's funding instrument for accelerating investment in the field of trans-European networks transport infrastructure projects, among others. The EU continues to focus its attention on projects that deliver on its climate objectives in the European Green Deal, like the mentioned CEF 2021 call's AFIF proposals underline. However, at the same time, the EU also intends to deploy projects with civilian-defence dual-use purpose that will help the EU not only to achieve the climate targets but that also are critical for the EU's security and defence.

Since the Russian invasion in Ukraine, this funding of dual-use projects has gained an increased importance. The newly selected projects under the CEF's Military Mobility call 2021 are expected to be accelerated in a reaction to the ongoing geopolitical crisis with the Russian war in Ukraine. While already in the past, the EU's CEF Transport programme granted financial support for projects of MILMOB Military Mobility, the current war in Ukraine has led to the European Commission's decision to accelerate the awarding of grants for projects that support military mobility under the CEF Transport.

The Commission also decided to advance the CEF's 2nd Military Mobility call and launched it on 12 May 2022, although originally the launch was planned for later this year. The Commission's decision to accelerate the finalisation of the individual grant agreements for these 22 selected

project proposals and to advance the CEF's 2nd Military Mobility call underlines the urgency of speeding-up investments in dual-use civilian-defence infrastructure projects within the EU's transport infrastructure network.

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