

## Topic: Modernisation & Maintenance of Infrastructure

### Brief description and main aims:

The EU has one of the densest transport infrastructure networks in the world. Nevertheless, Europe's transport network is far from complete and a large part of it is now ageing and coming under increasing pressure due to a rise in traffic. The maintenance deficit has led to the deterioration of transport infrastructure as demonstrated by the collapse or frequent closure of bridges or as observed in the poor state of some road surfaces.

The TEN-T Regulation is a core instrument at EU level for influencing Member States' infrastructure policies. Recognising the necessity of modernising the EU transport system, the European Commission adopted new transport proposals in December 2021, among which the revision of the Guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network. The TEN-T revision aims at addressing the missing links in the TEN-T network and at upgrading it.

### Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

The continuous maintenance of existing infrastructure is necessary to ensure the uniform quality of Europe's transport network. In addition to increasing the safety of users, a well maintained and modern transport network comes with various environmental benefits, by contributing to a more circular economy (thereby reducing raw material consumption and generation of waste) and by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

FIEC has put a particular focus on the TEN-T revision. Key provisions from our perspective are those that refer to the maintenance of the network's infrastructure and the deployment of innovative infrastructure. Thanks to FIEC's intense lobbying over the past years, the Commission aims at strengthening the approach with the regards to the quality of the TEN-T infrastructure and its maintenance, including the structural stability of critical assets such as bridges and tunnels.

As essential connecting points in Europe's transport network, the malfunction of bridges attracts particular attention. For this reason, FIEC has decided to set up a new Working Group, called ECO WG "*Structural Maintenance*", that will mainly focus on problems related to the lack of maintenance of bridges and promote initiatives to tackle this issue.

### Actions and key dates:

**03/05/2021** → Contribution to European Commission's public consultation on revision of trans-European transport network (TEN-T) guidelines

**14/12/2021** → Proposal for the revision of the TEN-T Regulation

**21/02/2022** → [FIEC Position Paper](#) on the Commission's proposal for the revised TEN-T

**20/04/2022** → FIEC sets up a new ECO Working Group on "*Structural Maintenance*" (bridges)

**28/06/2022** → Participation in panel discussion in *Connecting Europe Days 2022*

**02/03/2023** → Participation in visit to Huccorgne viaduct renovation site

**13/04/2023** → Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) adopts its position on TEN-T

**14/04/2023** → FIEC chairs the [Eurobridge](#) conference for the second consecutive year

**22/06/2023** → European Commission accelerates the shift to sustainable and smart mobility on the TEN-T network with € 6.2 billion in grants

**18/09/2023** → FIEC participates in kick-off meeting to relaunch [#MoreEUBudget4Transport](#) campaign with CEF Transport Coalition partners.