

Modernisation & Maintenance of Infrastructure

Brief description and main aims:

The European Union faces three major strategic challenges regarding infrastructure. First, it must **complete, modernise, and maintain its transport network** to ensure smooth and coherent connectivity across regions, with a particular focus on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). Second, in a context of heightened geopolitical tensions, infrastructure must be adapted for dual civilian and military use to **strengthen military mobility**. Finally, the green transition requires **making infrastructure sustainable** by redirecting investments toward low-carbon transport modes, improving energy efficiency, and aligning with the climate goals of the *European Green Deal*.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

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. The WG will extend its scope to the maintenance of infrastructure in general, not just for bridges. Thanks to FIEC's intense lobbying over the past years, the revised TEN-T rules strengthen the approach with the regards to the quality of the infrastructure and its maintenance, including the structural stability of critical assets such as bridges and tunnels.

New challenges have now been added to maintenance and sustainability for this WG - defence. The recent ***White Paper on European Defence – Readiness 2030*** has identified military mobility as a critical gap requiring urgent investment.

The ***Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)*** is the main EU funding instrument for delivering the goals of the TEN-T Regulation. This WG is actively engaging with the ongoing **public consultation on the CEF evaluation**. We aim to highlight the need for stronger support for structural maintenance, the adaptation of infrastructure for military use — including the creation of corridors to facilitate military transport from the Western to the Eastern front — and the reinforcement of the CEF's role in funding sustainable, low-carbon projects.

Actions and key dates:

14/12/2021 – The European Commission publishes its proposal for the revision of the (TEN-T) *Trans-European Transport Network Regulation* (FIEC [Position Paper](#)).

20/04/2022 – FIEC sets up a new Working Group on "Structural Maintenance".

18/10/2023 – Kick-off meeting of the Working Group of the European Commission's DG MOVE of the European Commission working group on decarbonising transport infrastructure. FIEC is represented by its President, Philip Crampton.

05/03/2024 – FIEC participates in the Intergroup event "*Infrastructure Maintenance and the Decarbonisation challenge*" held at the European Parliament.

24/04/2024 – The revised TEN-T guidelines are approved.

11/04/2025 – 4th edition of [Eurobridge](#) conference, Brussels.

28/04/2025 – FIEC publishes "*Priorities and Recommendations in Support of the TEN-T Vision*"

16/07/2025 – European Commission publishes its MFF 2028–2034 proposal; CEF Transport set at €51.5 bn (incl. €17 bn for Military Mobility).