



**INFORMATION NOTE BY CATHERINE TRAUTMANN, NORTH-SEA BALTIC TEN-T CORRIDOR COORDINATOR**

*On 23 June 2017 the European Commission recommended for funding a set of projects worth 2.7bn Euros selected under the third CEF transport call, launched in 2016. As Coordinator for the North Sea-Baltic Corridor (NSBC) I am very pleased that an EU financial support of more than 866 million euro was recommended for 24 projects concerning this Corridor, representing a slight increase compared to the last call.*

*As it happened already in the first and second round of CEF calls, there was a considerable oversubscription of proposals, allowing therefore retaining a CEF grant only for the best projects with the highest EU added value.*

*In this respect I am very pleased that Rail Baltica, which is indeed the most important missing link identified along the North Sea-Baltic Core Network Corridor, is set to continue to benefit from strong financial support from the Connecting Europe Facility, with almost half a billion EUR recommended funding for the global Rail Baltica project.*

*The funding is split in the following way between two important projects:*

- *€110 million is available for the joint project by consortium **RB Rail**, between **Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia**.*
- *€338 million is available for the **Białystok – Elk line**, meaning 80% of the Rail Baltica line in Poland will be complete by 2023.*

*This is on top of the €1.2 billion in funding provided by CEF to the Rail Baltica project in previous calls.*

*Another important railway project on the NSB Corridor is the trackside deployment of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS/ETCS) on the E20 railway line in Poland from the border with Germany to the border with Belarus, which has been recommended for CEF co-funding at the level of 85% of the total investment.*

*Apart from these key projects situated on the North Sea-Baltic Corridor, a number of Actions impacting also other Corridors were recommended for funding, mostly in the areas of railways,*

*intelligent traffic management and for the deployment of alternative fuelling stations in Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Poland.*

*The contribution of the recommended projects on the NSB Corridor to sustainable transport is very prominent, given that more than 90 % of the funding will indeed benefit the railway sector, including deployment of ERTMS, innovation and noise reduction, while the remainder is proposed to fund projects aiming at the reduction of the environmental impact of road transport.*

*I am convinced that all the proposed projects will contribute to the main priorities of the TEN-T policy and the CEF, in particular by bridging cross-border missing links and removing bottlenecks along the Corridor, contributing thereby to the EU's strategic goals on growth and jobs.*

*By now there is a robust list of projects targeting the implementation of a multimodal and smart North Sea-Baltic Corridor. The ball is now back to the beneficiaries to implement these projects timely and in good quality.*

**Brussels, 26 June 2017**

*Further information:*

*The official press release of the European Commissioner for Transport, Violeta Bulc, as well as the list of projects proposed for funding can be downloaded here:*

[https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/news/2017-06-23-2016-cef-call\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/news/2017-06-23-2016-cef-call_en)

*The work plan of the North Sea-Baltic Core network Corridor can be downloaded here:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/news/2015-05-28-coordinator-work-plans\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/news/2015-05-28-coordinator-work-plans_en.htm)