



HANDOUT

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Safer Transport Platform

As part of the third Mobility Package announced in May 2018, the European Commission (EC) developed an ambitious road safety agenda, including an outline of a Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030 and a Strategic Action Plan on Road Safety.

The European Investment Bank (EIB), too, is enhancing its efforts to finance transport safety measures where they are needed most. Since the adoption of its Transport Lending Policy in 2011, the EIB has expanded its lending, blending and advisory activities in support of transport projects with safety elements.

The EC and EIB have a longstanding partnership in promoting transport safety investment, and want to strengthen their respective strategies through closer cooperation in the form of a new joint initiative to target the main causes of loss of life in transport. This new initiative, the Safer Transport Platform – Road Safety Advisory will promote safety as a key element for road transport investments and provide a “one-stop-shop” for technical and financial advice targeting road safety.

Safety is a primary concern across all means of transport in the EU. Air, rail and waterways statistically are the safest means of transport, whereas roads today claim 97% of all transport fatalities worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) considers road traffic injuries as a health issue of epidemic proportions, and even though the EU has made great progress over recent decades, more than 25 000 people are killed and 135 000 seriously injured on EU roads every year. Many of these are pedestrians and cyclists, and road accidents are a dominant cause of death among children and young adults, causing unnecessary and unacceptable human suffering and high costs to society (of the order of EUR 280 billion per year in the EU).

Safer Transport Platform – Road Safety Advisory

The EC and EIB have jointly created a Platform component focused on road safety to provide technical assistance and advice on funding and financing options for investments in road safety. The Road Safety Advisory component of the Platform offers access to the full range of existing EIB and EC advisory services and financial products for eligible projects. EU co-funding is already a critical lever for the delivery of road safety results across the EU, particularly in countries where accident rates are high and safety investments can have an important impact. Funding solutions exist, for instance through the EC’s regional funds and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The latest CEF call made EUR 200 million available for road safety and digitalisation. However, awareness of advisory services, available funding and financing instruments is generally low, a situation that is exacerbated by the

complexity of the grant environment. The Safer Transport Platform – Road Safety Advisory seeks to address this by creating a single entry for promoters, resulting in better visibility, focus and cooperation between stakeholders.

The Safer Transport Platform – Road Safety Advisory is supported by the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)¹. The EIAH support includes a web presence with contact form, a needs assessment exercise and awareness raising activities (including ‘roadshows’ and workshops).

Projects eligible to receive advisory support under the Safer Transport Platform – Road Safety Advisory are for example combined road safety and rehabilitation programmes, blackspot programmes, traffic calming and street renovations in cities and built-up areas, facilities for cyclists and pedestrians, better connectivity between public transport and non-motorized means of transport, and IT solutions for safer and more effective traffic management. Subject to a feasibility assessment, including on cost effectiveness, such projects may also be eligible for financial support in the form of grants (from the EU) or lending (from the EIB or other financial institutions). Advice from the EIAH could also concern projects seeking to improve the safety of vehicle fleets (e.g. exploring initiatives by groups of fleet owners to roll out new safety equipment in large lorry fleets, or pooled procurement of safer buses and trucks) and other road safety related projects.

EIB Investment Activity

A key purpose of the EIB is to help close infrastructure investment gaps in the EU. The Bank has given high priority to safety in all transport modes – an approach which enables the Bank to incorporate lessons learned across sectors. In the railway sector, the EIB can finance safety improvements at level crossings, or initiatives to prevent unauthorised persons accessing tracks. In air transport, the EIB can finance elements related to compliance with infrastructure safety and security regulations. In maritime transport, the EIB can finance projects in compliance with the International Maritime Organisation’s safety and security regulations. However, since the beginning of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety in 2011, the EIB has paid particular attention to road safety.

Under the EIB’s current Transport Lending Policy and Road Safety Action Plan, financing is already available for improvements to existing roads and urban roads, where the majority of benefits stem from improved safety, equipment and Intelligent Transport Systems, and research and development into safer vehicles and driver-assistance systems. The Bank is also developing its approach to automated driving, and the opportunities and needs this will generate.

As a result, the EIB has been able to develop a pipeline of road safety projects within and outside the EU, pooling resources and efforts in cooperation with other stakeholders. This experience can now be used to promote best practice. The EIB will also review its action plan to take stock of current needs and the new EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030.

Future EIB lending to roads will prioritise projects with integrated road safety measures, which can raise the cost-effectiveness of rehabilitation and maintenance projects. Any future

¹ A joint initiative of the EIB and the EC in the context of the Investment Plan for Europe. EIAH provides technical and financial advisory services to potential applicants and project promoters to enhance their institutional capacity and strengthen project preparation. The services are free of charge for public entities and enables promoters to prepare and implement high-quality projects and, where applicable, optimise the use of EU funds.

road operation is expected to require incorporation of key performance indicators for road safety and road accident savings.

EC Policy Development

The European Commission's Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030 confirms the EU's target to work towards zero deaths and serious injuries on European roads by 2050 ('Vision Zero'). As intermediate targets, it aims for a reduction in the number of deaths by 50% between 2020 and 2030 and – for the first time – also for a 50% reduction in the number of serious injuries over the same period. In order to deliver these ambitious targets, a mix of actions is needed in line with the 'Safe System' approach. This approach accepts that collisions are likely to continue to happen, but focuses on the essential goal of preventing deaths and serious injuries by building several layers of protection around road users to ensure that, if one element fails, others will compensate. For example, better vehicle construction, improved road infrastructure and lower speeds can contribute to reducing the impact of accidents. The responsibility for the Safe System is shared in a coordinated manner across public and private sectors, and its application is closely monitored.

Strengthened EU funding and financing support will be a key factor in the implementation of the Safe System approach at EU level. Streamlined processes should provide stability and better coherence in funding and financing solutions for infrastructure upgrades and other road safety actions.

Background Information

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is the long-term lending institution of the European Union, owned by its Member States. It makes finance available for sound investments that contribute towards EU policy goals. In 2018, the EIB invested EUR 8.24 billion in transport projects in the EU. The EIB also supports investments outside the EU. Within the Investment Plan for Europe, the **European Commission (EC)** partners with the EIB to remove obstacles to investments, provide visibility and technical assistance to investment projects, and make smarter use of new and existing financial resources. The EC Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) works with the EU Member States, European industry, citizens and experts to promote efficient, safe and environmentally friendly mobility to generate growth and jobs.