

3. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

3.1. Priorities for the objective of removing bottlenecks, enhancing rail interoperability, bridging missing links and, in particular, improving cross-border sections

3.1.3. Projects to connect the trans-European transport network with infrastructure networks of the neighbouring countries on the core and comprehensive networks, in particular related to cross-border sections, concerning railways, inland waterways and roads

(Priority open only to neighbouring countries under the general envelope)

General objective:

Promoting the cooperation with third countries in the field of transport infrastructure development is an objective that derives from the European neighbourhood policy, the preparation of further EU enlargement and the Union's active role in a number of international organisations. For this purpose, the TEN-T Guidelines (Article 8) set out specific areas of action.

The general objective is to strengthen cooperation with neighbouring countries in order to ensure connections and interoperability between the respective infrastructure networks. In line with the "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area"¹, transport cooperation with neighbouring countries will focus on removing the barriers to seamless and efficient transport, ensuring a high level of safety, security, social and environmental standards, with regards to both infrastructure and market integration aspects.

Proposed Actions to be selected under this priority shall concern studies or works and shall be in line with Chapters II and, if applicable, Chapter III of the TEN-T Guidelines. Due to the limited budget, a specific focus under this call for proposals will be given to studies and in particular those aiming at improving inland navigation, railway and road connections with a view to ensuring a sustainable and efficient transport system.

Only Actions concerning projects located on the indicative maps of the trans-European transport network extension into specific neighbouring countries, as identified in Annex III of TEN-T Guidelines², may be submitted under this priority of the call.

Specific objectives:

Priority will be given to proposed Actions addressing the following areas:

- Infrastructure at border crossing points necessary to ensure seamless traffic flow, border checks, border surveillance and other border control procedures – studies and works. These projects should be located at the border crossing points and should contribute to a reduction in transport costs and travelling and waiting time at the border, facilitate international freight flows and to increased safety and security, as well as environmental protection. The Actions can concern studies and/or works.

¹ COM(2011) 144 final.

² As latest amended by the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/758.

- The connection between the TEN-T core network and the transport networks of neighbouring countries, to ensure closer market integration with the Eastern Partnership countries, the Western Balkans and Turkey. These projects will be located on the territory of neighbouring countries and will concern an infrastructure section that ensures the connection between the network of the neighbouring country with that of the core network of a neighbouring EU Member State. The Action can concern studies only.
- Completion of the transport infrastructure in third countries which serve as links between parts of the core network in the Union. These projects will be located on the territory of a neighbouring country and must not necessarily concern a cross-border connection. The Action can concern studies only.
- Implementation of traffic management systems in neighbouring countries. Projects may concern the deployment of any traffic management systems as described in the TEN-T Guidelines (except for SESAR and Motorways of the Sea) and will concern sections on the territory of the neighbouring country. The projects should ensure the enhanced interoperability of the neighbouring countries' networks with that of the EU. The Actions can concern studies and/or works.

Proposed Actions addressing the implementation of the Single European Sky (SESAR) in the neighbouring countries shall be submitted to Priority "Single European Sky" of the multi-annual transport call for proposals Funding Objective 3.

Proposed Actions addressing Motorways of the Sea in the neighbouring countries shall be submitted to Priority "Motorways of the Sea" of the multi-annual transport call for proposals Funding Objective 3.

General observation for all priorities under section 3:

In addition to specific objectives, priority will be given to projects that include the use of private finance, in particular EU-backed finance instruments such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments.