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

3.1.1. Railways, inland waterways and roads projects on the core network including connections to inland and maritime ports and airports, as well as development of ports

General objective

This priority covers all transport infrastructure projects (studies and works) in order to implement core network projects which are not included in the pre-identified sections of Part I of Annex I to the CEF Regulation. Within this framework, for seaports, priority will be given to projects which contribute to the objectives set out in the Communication from the Commission "Ports: an engine for growth"1.

This priority also aims at increasing the use of private finance in trans-European transport infrastructure financing as an alternative and complement to the traditional grant funding and plug financing gaps for strategic investments, in particular for TEN-T priorities such as rail and inland waterways projects or complex pan-European deployment of EU standards (such as SESAR and ERTMS). This priority will support the development of a larger pipeline of structured projects using Public Private Partnership (PPP) or other forms of project finance models.

Specific objectives

In particular this priority covers:

- Cross border projects for railways, inland waterways and roads
- Removal of bottlenecks for railway inland waterway, road networks in the case of Member States with no railway network established in their territory or in the case of a Member States, or part thereof, with an isolated network without long-distance rail freight transport and maritime infrastructure
- Other infrastructure projects for railways and inland waterways on the core network, including connections to ports and airports
- The coordinated development and management of ports, rail, road networks in the case of Member States with no railway network established in their territory or in the case of a Member States, or part thereof, with an isolated network without long-distance rail freight transport and inland waterway infrastructure.

1 COM(2013)295 final
Technical, legal, financial or feasibility studies to assess the potential for private-public partnership (PPP) or other project finance schemes as well as the preparation of tender documentation and permission procedures