EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

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EUR 97 million of regional funds to extend the Metro in Porto

The European Commission has approved an investment of € 96.97 million from the Cohesion Fund to extend the light metro system in Portugal’s second largest metropolitan area of Porto. The investment "Extension of the Light Metro of Oporto between Dragão stadium and Venda Nova" covers the extension of the “Orange line” that was open to the public in late 2010. 6.76 km of double track light railway and 10 metro stations, including a 980 m long tunnel were built. 64 permanent jobs are expected to be created. The Oporto light rail system is highly popular for its fast, reliable, comfortable and environmentally sustainable travel, carrying around 200 000 passengers daily and reducing the number of cars and pollution in the urban areas.

This project is part of a list of priority major projects that was established in 2007 and confirmed in 2012 in Portugal. The Commission is closely monitoring their implementation while helping the authorities to optimize the use of EU investment.

Commenting on the decision, Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn said “This project is a good example of how EU regional funds contribute to improving the mobility of our citizens, ensuring safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly travel conditions and making the region even more attractive for investors”.

The investment comes through the programme "Territorial Development" (PO-VT) and its priority axis "National Structural Networks and Equipment for Sustainable Transport and Mobility". The European Union, through the Cohesion Fund, will finance €97 million out of a total investment of € 161 million.

Today’s decision approves the EU contribution for the project that was constructed over the years 2009 to 2012.

The Oporto light metro system with 70 km network (of which 9.5 km underground) and 81 stations has already benefitted from EU financing in the first phase (EUR 320 million from the ERDF and EUR 68 million from the Cohesion Fund).

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Background:
This is a "major project", of which the total investment (VAT included) is above €50 million and thus subject to a specific decision by the European Commission, whereas other types of projects are approved at national or regional levels.

Portugal has been allocated approximately €3 billion in total cohesion fund for the period 2007-2013 out of a total of €21.5 billion of Cohesion policy.

More information:
EU-funded 'Major Projects'
EU cohesion policy in Portugal
Project website
Project contact

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