

**T**ransport is key to economic growth and competitiveness, as it provides the physical networks that enable the movement of people and goods. Better mobility helps to bring Europeans closer together and generates trade, social benefits, economic growth and employment.

While the transport sector as a whole represents 9%<sup>[1]</sup> of the total gross value added of the EU economy, it is also the main source of air pollution in cities and represents almost a quarter of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions<sup>[2]</sup>.

Transport is also about safety. Although the European Union has made great progress in reducing the number of road fatalities over the last few decades, more than 25 000 people are killed and 135 000 seriously injured on European roads every year<sup>[3]</sup>.

## WHY IS THE EIB SUPPORTING THE TRANSPORT SECTOR? FACTS AND FIGURES

Unsurprisingly, transport is by far the single largest sector of EIB activity with over **€315 billion** in signed contracts up to the end of 2018. This accounts for approximately **23% of all EIB Group lending**. The EIB provides financial support, technical assistance and advisory services for transport projects that are climate-friendly, sustainable, innovative, and safe.



[1] The transport sector (services, manufacturing, maintenance and construction) accounts for more than 9% of EU gross value added (GVA). Transport services alone accounted for around €662 billion in GVA, or 5 % of total EU GVA in 2015. Source: European Commission <https://bit.ly/2QeXPul>

[2] International Energy Agency (IEA) <https://bit.ly/32Pfvpc>

[3] European Parliament <https://bit.ly/2Ko0yh9>

The EIB pursues two core objectives when investing in transport:

- to make transport cleaner, greener, safer, accessible and efficient;
- to strengthen the connectivity of goods and people in Europe and beyond.

Moreover, **the EIB is playing a major role in the decarbonisation of transport in Europe:** lending to sustainable transport sectors – including rail and urban public transport – has been steadily increasing and now constitutes the majority of our yearly transport lending.

**In 2019, the EIB signed new deals totalling €10.5 billion for 81 new transport projects inside the European Union,** which means that 630 million additional passengers are expected to be transported on sustainable and strategic transport annually.

## TRANSPORT PRIORITY AREAS

The EIB finances projects in the following priority areas:

### Green

Transport generates vast amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and exhaust gases, contributing to climate change and air pollution. That is why financing to curb transport emissions and to make transport greener and more sustainable is at the heart of the EIB's support for the transport sector. Through the **Cleaner Transport Facility (CTF)**, we support the deployment of alternative fuels and cleaner technology in transport.

[More information online](#)

### Safe and secure

Safety is not only a key priority for road and rail transport development but also throughout the lifecycle of transport projects, from the design and construction phase to routine maintenance and rehabilitation works. The EIB and the European Commission (EC) launched the **Safer Transport Platform - Road Safety Advisory**, which promotes safety as a key element for transport investment while providing easy access to technical and financial advice – in particular for road safety – through the European Investment Advisory Hub.

[More information online](#)

### Innovative and efficient

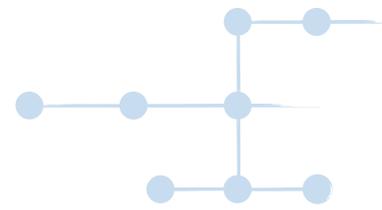
Innovation is vital for cleaner and safer low-carbon transport as well as for tackling Europe's congestion issues. Achieving these goals will only be possible with the help of new technologies. Our **innovation financing** therefore supports research and development activities for cutting-edge technologies, such as alternative fuels and fuel cells, green batteries, e-mobility, autonomous driving and artificial intelligence. We also help to bring products to the market and finance the deployment of new infrastructure solutions such as electrical charging and hydrogen fuelling networks.

[More information online](#)

### Inclusive and accessible

According to the United Nations, nearly 1 billion people worldwide still lack adequate access to road networks, which hinders their access to basic services and markets and leads to marginalisation and social inequities. Transport is key to mitigating the social exclusion of vulnerable groups as it provides access to basic services while improving employment and social relations. The social dimension of transport is an important aspect of our financing and we are striving to address the challenges presented by ageing populations, migration and geographical disadvantages.

[More information online](#)



## Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T)

The expansion of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) is crucial for fostering economic growth and competitiveness while bringing 500 million Europeans closer to each other. The TEN-T policy links regional and national infrastructure to create coherent European systems, and supports the connections between the EU Member States and the European Neighbourhood area.

[More information online](#)

## THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORT: THE EIB'S CONTRIBUTION

In the light of emerging EU policy and sector developments, the EIB is reinforcing its focus on **clean, digital and automated** transport, while continuing to support sustainable mobility and its funding and financing.

The current **EIB transport lending policy** was issued in 2011. The EIB intends to review and update this policy in the early 2020s. It is expected to be aligned with the future update of the European Commission's White Paper on Transport covering the transport sector after 2020.

Gavin Dunnett, Director of Mobility at the European Investment Bank, was interviewed by the Bank's Editorial Team on the future of transport.

[More information online](#)

## A WIDE RANGE OF FINANCIAL TOOLS

### Investment loans

To finance a transport project or programme with a total investment cost in excess of €25 million. The Bank can cover up to 50% of the total project cost. Recent examples include the development of Dublin's port.

### Intermediated loans

To provide finance to local banks and other intermediaries, which is then on-lent to the final beneficiaries. For example, we financed a loan that enabled the Baden-Württemberg region to buy trains and lease them to service operators which would otherwise have been excluded from the project tender.

## Framework loans

To finance transport schemes with a total investment cost of less than €25 million by combining several projects under one loan. The renewal and upgrade of Madrid's metro network was financed via a framework loan.

## Infrastructure equity funds

The EIB supports funds that invest in (transport) infrastructure projects such as the Meridiam Infrastructure Fund II.

## Project Bond Initiative

This is a joint initiative by the EIB and EC to facilitate access to finance by offering credit enhancement to help project promoters attract additional private finance from institutional investors such as insurance companies and pension funds.

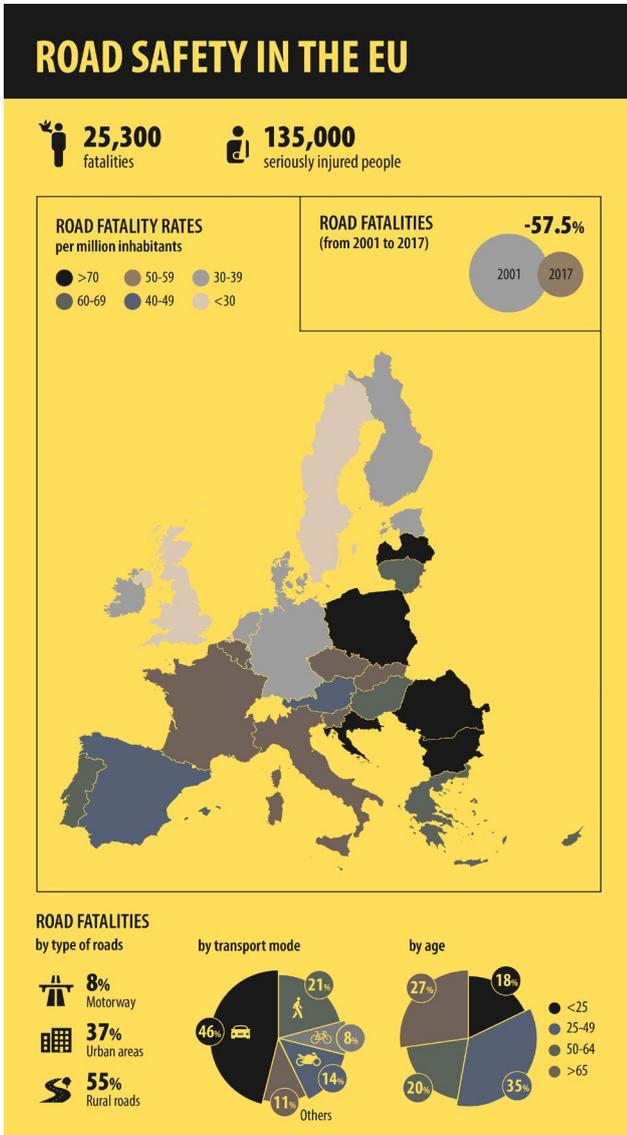
## Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is a EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment. It supports the development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in transport, energy and digital services. CEF investments fill the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone. An example of support through CEF is the Green Shipping Guarantee Programme that aims to lower CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions by the maritime sector.

[More information online](#)

## Loan guarantee instrument (LGTT)

To cover revenue risks in the early stages of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) transport projects and thus facilitate more private sector involvement in the financing of TEN-Ts. The A11 Brugge motorway is an example of our work in this field.



Source: European Parliament <https://bit.ly/2QkHm7M>

This overview, with links to stories, brochures and videos, is available at:  
<https://www.eib.org/transport-overview>

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