

ASECAP STATEMENT POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE – FITNESS CHECK OF ITS APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

ASECAP welcomes the initiative of the Commission to collect feedback on the The Polluter Pays Principle implementation in the EU, measures to prevent, control and remedy pollution and for the cost to society of pollution.

Road transport is one of the sectors with the highest greenhouse gas emissions. More than ever today, there is a need to invest in the decarbonisation of transport, which will only be effective if road transport is decarbonised.

ASECAP members are therefore convinced that there will be no climate change limitation and mitigation without fast road transport decarbonisation, and that the user-pays principle is the best currently available asset to combine the financing of new investments and the internalisation of the polluter-pays principle.

Toll roads should be seen as one of the solutions for financing the ecological transition of road transport and mobility. Indeed, tolls may finance the ecological transition by providing improved and safer infrastructure, adaptation to cleaner vehicles and internalisation of the negative externalities of road transport.

ASECAP believes that the European Commission should define sustainable funding mechanisms to implement measures aiming at preserving the environment and biodiversity.

- We believe that the source of funding should be sustainable in time, and as such it should be encouraged (to not burden future generations with debt repayments) and ideally come from road users/polluters, that benefit from the infrastructure and generate externalities.
- User/polluter/ is not only a mechanism to finance the needed investments on road infrastructure (to build, enlarge and make resilient the EU road network and adapt it to the digitalisation, protection of the environment, fauna and flora).
- ASECAP would like to recall that earmarked tolling has allowed the development of efficient safe road infrastructure with high-level of services, long-term optimization, proper maintenance and investments. These infrastructures achieve the best level of quality, safety and protection of the environment and biodiversity, based on user/polluter/payer principle which is a sustainable financing scheme.
- The “user/polluter/pays” principle is the fairest way to finance Infrastructure projects as tax payers no longer have to bear the cost of infrastructure. Public funds are released and can be allocated to other social priorities such as health, education or public transport.

- Investors can act in long-term liaison between administrations to ensure the pursuit of sustainable goals through long term public-private partnerships. A transparent mechanism with an entity bearing and managing most of the risks, having an economic incentive to ensure that infrastructure, is resilient. This sustainable mechanism can be transferred to future generations in the same or better conditions. **It has already been tested by concession models or PPP schemes and should be encouraged in compliance with the regulation.**

About ASECAP:

ASECAP is the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures across 19 member countries representing 128 companies employing more than 44.000 direct jobs and 200.000 indirect jobs. They operate, maintain, manage a network of more than 81.000 km with a long-term vision that ensures highest quality standards to make the road infrastructure safest targeting vision zero fatality and moving toward net zero carbon thank to the user/payer principle providing sustainable financing.

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