

## ASECAP PRESS RELEASE

### *EETS implementation:*

### *ASECAP calls on EU Institutions to give due consideration to the common view of all stakeholders*

On 11 June 2013, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on a strategy for an electronic toll service and a vignette system on light private vehicles in Europe, based on the own initiative report by rapporteur MEP Jim Higgins. ASECAP welcomes the European Parliament's recognition of the user pays and polluter pays principles as key priorities for European transport, yet it notes that the resolution fails to address the problems of market realities that actually hinder the deployment of the European Electronic Tolling Service (EETS), and basically suggests stiffening a regulatory-oriented approach that has so far shown its limits. ASECAP believes that only a realistic approach can lead to the EETS' implementation and suggests that the European Parliament should look with a more benevolent eye to the pragmatic approach of the European Commission, underpinned by all the most relevant EETS stakeholders.

Decision 2009/750/EC establishes the theoretical legal framework for the EETS and defines the roles of the EETS stakeholders: States, Toll Chargers, EETS providers providing the service, and users enjoying the service rendered. The Decision took into account the conclusions of ASECAP's CESARE IV project but it ignored the one related to the needed phased regional approach, thus opting for a strict regulatory approach. The ASECAP Toll Chargers complied with the EETS' legal obligations and have undertaken the necessary efforts to be ready to provide the service for their part; however, to date no EETS provider is actually active in the EETS market and for this reason EETS has not yet become a reality for the European users.

In its Communication COM(2012) 474 to the European Parliament and the Council, the European Commission recognized that only by following a realistic, step-wise approach, starting in those parts of Europe where international traffic reaches high levels and EETS providers may find a suitable business case, full EETS implementation may emerge in the EU. With this aim a specific call for projects to establish the basis of a step-wise implementation of the EETS was launched within the TEN-T budget line. Continuing their efforts in support of the EETS, ASECAP and its main members, together with Member States active in road tolling and other relevant stakeholders, filed a proposal accordingly.

**ASECAP REMINDS that the EETS is a long term vision, going beyond different national systems and leading to a core European Electronic Tolling Service. It is fundamental to understand that the costs of offering this service need to be financed properly, and the market, perhaps also because of the current financial crisis, proved not mature enough. ASECAP and its Toll Chargers are ready to be part of this market together with the other EETS stakeholders, and to explore jointly short- and long-term market realities and conditions needed to turn the EETS vision into reality.**

