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ASECAP WELCOMES THE EU RECOVERY PLAN TO SUPPORT EU ECONOMY AND STRESSES THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF TOLL ROAD OPERATORS IN DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

European Union has adopted an ambitious economic recovery plan aiming at : *"promoting the Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion by improving the resilience and adjustment capacity of the Member States, mitigating the social and economic impact of the crisis, and supporting the green and digital transitions, thereby contributing to restoring the growth potential of the economies of the Union, fostering employment creation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, and promoting sustainable growth."*

ASECAP is welcoming and supporting this initiative which will allow to boost the European economy and to recover from COVID 19 pandemic.

Toll road operators, members of ASECAP, would like to stress their crucial role in the development of a sustainable transport system in Europe. They want to highlight their engagement and commitment to improving the transport sector by making it more efficient, socially equitable and more sustainable from different standpoints: safety, environment, mobility and financing.

In their search to improve the environmental-friendly aspect of their activities and bearing in mind that they represent a driving force for the economic development of our continent, toll road operators seek to fulfil their responsibilities through a collective effort to foster sustainable development. In particular "toll" become the key instrument to achieve the fundamental objective of Green and sustainable road transport.

For road operator companies, whose business is the financing, design, construction and operation of infrastructure projects on a long-term basis, this sustainability requirement is of the utmost importance and it remains the key priority. ASECAP members are shouldering their responsibility as nationwide land developers, playing a major role in the social and economic development, supporting the jobs and growth of the regions they serve and connect.

With the Green Deal, the sustainable and green transport is the highest priority of the European Commission's policy. In this framework the toll motorway sector is reaffirming its commitment to prepare next generation mobility fulfilling the **climate change challenges to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 90% in the transport by 2050 by fostering the deployment of green, safe and innovative transports (including multimodal and autonomous transports, as well as the deployment of alternative fuels' infrastructure).**

Motorway operators have already started to make the shift to greener mobility. More investments for mobility are needed as European cities are increasing in size and the population. Time for commuting, congestion, air pollution and noise are increasing everywhere in Europe.

To face those challenges, toll road infrastructure operators are ready to invest to boost new mobility frameworks and contribute to decarbonization of road transport to reach the target of carbon-free emission by 2050.

ASECAP members would therefore like to reaffirm their willingness to support the ambitious goals of the European Commission to reach carbon-free objectives for a sustainable road infrastructure. Likewise any economic sector, the motorway operators have suffered from the COVID 19 situation with the heavy loss of traffic and revenue. Nevertheless, the road infrastructure has demonstrated its resiliency allowing keeping moving goods in the worst situation. ASECAP operators are strongly hoping that EU Institutions recognize the value of road operators and express their will to have support helping them to make necessary investments to contribute to the Economic recovery.

About ASECAP:

ASECAP is the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures across 21 member countries representing 142 companies employing more than 50.000 direct jobs and 200.000 indirect jobs. They operate, maintain, manage a network of more than 88.000 km with a long-term vision that ensures highest quality standards to make the road infrastructure safest, greener thank to the user/payer principle providing sustainable financing.

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