

ASECAP PRESS RELEASE

A PPP road map at last !

Time is ripe to move from theoretical interpretations to concrete actions

ASECAP welcomes the Commission's Communication on "**Mobilising private and public investment for recovery and long-term structural change: developing PPP**", as well as the political support PPPs now benefit at the highest level of the European Commission.

European motorways' concessionaires – a pioneering and socially-oriented industry in terms of PPP schemes – have long been advocating for a clear recognition of the crucial role of the private sector in improving delivery of projects, ensuring better value for money, boosting innovation and sustainability. Although pressure on public finances is particularly high in times of crisis, public budgets scarcity has proved to be a constant constraint in the past decades. The EU's commitment must, therefore, be driven by the long-term aspiration to ensure financial sustainability for crucial infrastructure projects. Concessions schemes have already delivered efficient, safe and intelligent transport infrastructures in many EU Member States and regions.

However, ASECAP underlines that theoretical and horizontal support must be reflected in concrete vertical measures taken by the Commission's General Directorates that, so far, lack coordination. The upcoming White Paper on the future of transport policy, currently under preparation by DG TREN, must fully take into account and highlight the role of PPPs and, more specifically, concessions schemes¹. **The private sector, together with the highest level of expertise in the design, construction, maintenance and operation phases, brings that financial reliability Europe is seeking.**

The EU can never achieve its goal if the relevant stakeholders remain absent from the discussion tables. This is a priority and under this understanding, ASECAP welcomes

¹ see also ASECAP comments on the Communication on the future of transport:

http://www.asecap.com/english/documents/PositionPaperCOMfutureoftransport_000.pdf



the establishment of a PPP group that will enable all the stakeholders to get together, to understand the complex questions and propose simple answers.

ASECAP (Association européenne des Concessionnaires d'Autoroutes et d'Ouvrages à Péage) is the European Association of Operators of Tolloed Road Infrastructures. It gathers 21 members representing 148 organisations that manage a toll network of over 40.000 km.

The vision of ASECAP and its members is an environmentally friendly efficient transport system and for this objective they promote tolling as the most effective tool to finance the construction, operation and maintenance of motorways and other major road infrastructures for the benefit of the European citizen. ASECAP and its members are committed to:

~ Strengthening the efficiency of their networks and permanently improving the level of service provided to the European citizens, by keeping up with the latest technology developments and the best operational practises;

~ Exchanging information and experience, participating in research programmes and further developing and enhancing the direct "user-payer" toll system as an instrument of a sustainable, safe and environmentally friendly transport policy.

ASECAP draws from this representation a unique expertise recognised in the field of infrastructures financing, construction, management and maintenance.