

Recommendations to European Commission and European Parliament

Transport is critical to the global economy. The commodities that a good transport network produces are vital to modern economic life. As highlighted in EMTA's response to the 2011 European Transport White Paper (Appendix I), EU Governments and local authorities rightly expect the transport industry to operate safely and sustainably, and to make a positive contribution to economic development.

The impact of European Transport Policy on rail activity, economic growth and smart mobility was debated extensively at an EMTA workshop entitled "Transport and Economic Growth: An International Perspective" which was held in Birmingham on 11 November 2011.

Also explored was how the policy supports EU competitiveness and what partnership between the public and the private sectors can best enhance the competitive "Single European Transport Area". Following the workshop, EMTA is now sending the following recommendations to the European Institutions:

On Rail Connectivity

EC's attention is focused on the TEN-T network as the back-bone of a "shrinking" Europe where travelling for passengers and goods across different countries is facilitated by priority lines and corridors. However to maximise the impact of such a trans-national core network it is important that the benefits are also spread at regional and sub-regional level.

EMTA recommends the EC to give due consideration to:

- The need for the upgrade of existing cross-border infrastructure rail connexions to enhance economic links between major cities (for ex the connexion Berlin-Warsaw)
- The development of policies and funding programmes specifically aimed at enabling increased capacity on the rail network in metropolitan areas.
- Support the modernisation (upgrade or renewal) of the rolling stock through the use of regional development and cohesion funds for cities and region that have submitted urban mobility plans independently validated (*refers to EMTA response to White Paper p4*).

On Encouraging Economic Growth through Public Transport

EU Transport Policy is there to put in place the transport infrastructure and interconnections to underpin the Single Market, to ensure the free-flow of goods and people and to support growth, jobs and EU competitiveness. There is therefore a need to

ensure EC transport policies are supportive and fully aligned with emerging EC economic strategies. Most importantly, EC transport investment programmes must be flexible and accommodating to the various "Austerity" measures developed by European Governments. EC recent innovative initiatives such as the "Innovative financing and the Project bond" are welcome and would prove crucial in supporting growth and therefore in speeding up investment opportunities for major transport schemes within the EU zone.

EMTA recommends the EC to:

- Establish dialogue with EMTA in order to take forward some of the measures highlighted in the "Connecting Europe Facility" (i.e. choosing piloting areas for the Innovative financing and Project Bond"

On Smart Mobility and Low Carbon

The European Commission White Paper on Transport acknowledges that mobility is vital for the internal market and for the quality of life of citizens as they enjoy their freedom to travel. It also acknowledges that congestion is a major concern which compromises accessibility, and transport must therefore be sustainable in the light of the new challenges we face.

EMTA recommends the EC to:

- Acknowledge that there is not such a thing as "**green congestion**" and that notwithstanding the progress and investment in green vehicles, European cities need to embrace a transition towards sustainable urban mobility based on walking, cycling, and high quality passenger transport where this reduces traffic congestion and minimises carbon emissions.
- Support through funding integrated transport infrastructure, innovative transport management, information systems and "Smarter Choices" to support modal shift and change in behaviour. Measures across all modes of transport will be required to accommodate the growth in travel demand without increasing travel times, congestion and costs and undermining economic performance.
- Encourage the adoption of the good practices identified and developed through the INTERREG IVC programme to stimulate modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport by increasing the implementation of high quality mobility management techniques and policies in European regions.