

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.7.2025)

1. The Commission recognises the benefits of combined transport in reducing emissions, congestion, and costs, and actively supports its development through EU policies and funding instruments. However, decisions concerning the reopening of specific routes, such as the Autostrada Ferroviaria Alpina (AFA), to ensure sufficient transport services, remain within the competence of the relevant national authorities.

EU' strategic infrastructure priorities are defined through the TEN-T Regulation¹ and supported by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), which allocates funding based on alignment with EU transport objectives and demonstrated European added value. The route between Orbassano and Aiton forms part of the TEN-T network along the Mediterranean Corridor of the European Transport Network. As such, it is subject to the obligations set out in the TEN-T Regulation and must achieve compliance with its requirements by 2030.

2. The Commission services have been informally contacted by the Member States concerned in relation to the reactivation of a joint contribution measure to reduce the cost of the Autostrada Ferroviaria Alpina services.

3. The main EU instruments to support workers affected by restructuring are the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF). The former provides anticipatory support for upskilling, reskilling, and inclusive employment initiatives as the latter offers one-off, reactive assistance in major restructuring cases by co-financing active labour market measures aimed at bringing dismissed workers back into sustainable employment as quickly as possible.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj/eng>.