

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001745/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(30 April 2025)

Subject: Strengthening European rail infrastructure to enhance defence preparedness and strategic resilience

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) has called on political leaders, businesses and stakeholders to prioritise investment in rail infrastructure and rolling stock in order to support the EU's defence capabilities and resilience. In the current geopolitical context, the ability to efficiently transport military assets is crucial. Railways serve as the backbone of Europe's defence logistics, underpinning both military mobility and broader strategic objectives.

CER's position paper of 18 February 2025 identifies key actions needed, including expanding rail network capacity and interoperability, investing in digital systems, replenishing and adapting rolling stock for military purposes, safeguarding infrastructure against cyberthreats and hybrid threats, and strengthening intermodal connections.

This need is even more pressing in Member States such as Romania, which, due to its proximity to conflict zones, plays a critical role in ensuring rapid and secure military mobility. Modern and resilient infrastructure in these border regions is vital for the EU's collective security and for maintaining supply chains that are under strain.

In the light of these strategic imperatives, what measures does the Commission intend to propose to strengthen targeted investment in rail infrastructure and military mobility, particularly in frontline Member States, to ensure Europe's resilience and defence readiness?

Submitted: 30.4.2025

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(3 July 2025)

The Commission acknowledges the strategic importance of rail infrastructure in enhancing defence preparedness and resilience. The current Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) earmarked EUR 1.7 billion for investment in military mobility transport infrastructure and the entire envelope was spent in three funding calls on 96 dual-use projects in 21 Member States — with almost half of the total budget attributed to rail projects.

As mentioned in its replies to written questions E-000700/2025 and E-002584/2024, the Commission and the European External Action Service have together identified four priority military mobility corridors and key bottlenecks along those corridors, including for rail.

As indicated in the recently-adopted White Paper for European Defence Readiness (March 2025) ⁽¹⁾ these bottlenecks need to be addressed as a matter of urgency, while long-term dual-use infrastructure projects would also benefit from greater financial predictability.

Additionally, the Commission has proposed to establish the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) ⁽²⁾ which would allow the Member States to carry out urgent and major public investments in support of the European defence industry, including military mobility.

Furthermore, the Commission's proposal for the mid-term review of Cohesion policy ⁽³⁾ gives Member States, including Romania, additional possibilities and incentives to direct their funds allocations towards military mobility.

The Commission remains committed to facilitating cooperation and providing guidance to ensure that infrastructure development aligns with strategic defence objectives and encourages Member States to prioritise projects that enhance interoperability and capacity of rail networks.

⁽¹⁾ Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030, JOIN/2025/120 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025JC0120>.

⁽²⁾ Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION establishing the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) through the reinforcement of European defence industry Instrument, COM/2025/122 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0122>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0123>.