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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.8.2025)

Regulation (EU) 2024/1679¹ on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) defines three priority layers of the network, each with specific requirements and target completion dates: the core network by 2030, the extended core network by 2040, and the comprehensive network by 2050.

While the Eje Transversal Ferroviario (ETF – ‘Crosslink Railway Corridor’) high-speed rail project, which aims to connect Lleida with Girona by bypassing Barcelona, may support modal shift and sustainable mobility goals, it is currently not included in the TEN-T network as defined by the Regulation.

The ETF project is therefore not eligible for funding under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Nevertheless, the Commission continues to encourage investments that align with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy², including initiatives that enhance rail freight and reduce road congestion, provided they are consistent with the TEN-T framework.

The ETF infrastructure could receive support of the European Regional Development Fund under the actions dedicated to transport and sustainable mobility, but the concrete conditions for financing needs to be checked by the beneficiary with the authorities responsible for the management of the funds in Spain³.

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

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0789>.

³ Directorate for EU Funds in the Ministry of Finance, <https://fondoseuropeos.gob.es/es-ES/Paginas/Inicio.aspx>.