

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004514/25
to the Commission
Mihai Tudose (S&D)
(13 November 2025)**

Subject: High-speed railways

I welcome the action plan presented by the Commission for the development of the European high-speed rail network, and hope that this will close the great gulf that exists between a small group of western EU countries with a concentration of high-speed rail lines and the countries of central and eastern Europe, with poor connections including between their capitals.

Commissioner Apostolos Tzitzikostas has put the cost of completing the network at EUR 550 billion by 2040 and has admitted there is an investment shortfall.

How will the Commission solve the issue of securing the necessary funding and how does it plan to enhance coordination between national rail infrastructure managers?

Submitted: 13.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(20 January 2026)**

The communication 'Connecting Europe Through High-Speed' ⁽¹⁾ sets out how the Commission plans to improve connectivity between capitals through high-speed, which will accelerate achieving the EU's twin goals of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050 and strengthening the European Union's global competitiveness.

In this endeavour, bridging the investment gap will be crucial. The next EU long-term budget (2028-2034) is currently negotiated in the European Parliament and the Council, based on the Commission's proposals of July 2025 ⁽²⁾.

The proposal for the next Connecting Europe Facility foresees to double the current budget with a particular focus on cross-border transport infrastructure projects, which will help also in the development of a European high-speed network. However, public funding alone will not suffice to meet the substantial investment estimates.

EU funding will be required to leverage funding and financing from other public and private sources. The Commission welcomes a more strategic and coordinated use of European funds, national measures, user charges, and where needed financial investment from the private sector.

Therefore, the Commission will develop a financing strategy and will engage in a strategic dialogue with Member States, financial institutions and other key stakeholders to discuss how to leverage the impact of EU financing instruments and create a European ecosystem of investors engaged in financing strategic projects.

The strategic dialogue will also promote cooperation between the rail sector actors by disseminating best practices in the EU. A 'High-Speed Rail Deal' to be agreed in 2026 will set out joint commitments by all relevant partners to mobilise the necessary resources.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/connecting-europe-through-high-speed-rail-2025-11-05_en.
⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0547>.