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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.6.2026)

The Commission is addressing infrastructure gaps to strengthen Greek exports through the new trans-European transport network (TEN-T) Regulation (EU) 2024/1679¹, which establishes the Western Balkans-Eastern Mediterranean (WBEM) European Transport Corridor and mandatory standards for 2030, 2040 and 2050.

Focus is placed on three pillars:

1. Completing Corridor X. Corridor X is the operational backbone linking the ports of Piraeus and Thessaloniki to Central Europe; it is the most effective way to boost the flow of Greek exports.
2. Binding technical standards. By 2030, the core rail network must be electrified, support 100km/h freight speeds, and European Rail Traffic Management System deployment.
3. Coordinated governance. The European Coordinator for the Western Balkans-Eastern Mediterranean Core Network Corridor will deliver the WBEM work plan by July 2026, seeking to synchronize cross-border investments to eliminate bottlenecks.

Financial support is provided through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, the Western Balkans Investment Framework, and the Connecting Europe Facility². Crucially, the new EUR 6 billion Reform and Growth Facility³ links funding to reforms and TEN-T compliance.

Finally, the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Greece, Bulgaria and Romania on Enhanced Cross-Border Cooperation in the Framework of the Black Sea-Aegean Sea Corridor Platform (BACP) strengthens the key north-south corridor in South East Europe. The trilateral political agreement reinforces connectivity for citizens and businesses and reinforcing Europe's security, competitiveness and resilience across the Aegean, the Black Sea and the Danube.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj>.

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1153/oj>.

³ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1449/oj>.