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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.7.2026)

The Commission fully agrees with the assessment that the success of the Brenner Base tunnel hinges on the availability of access routes with sufficient capacity to the south and the north of the tunnel. Only with such infrastructures in place the tunnel can unfold its full potential, greatly improve the connectivity through the Alps for passengers and freight and help relieve the local populations from the adverse effects of road transport.

Deutsche Bahn has handed in its detailed planning and preferred route alignment for the parliamentary approval process which is expected later in 2026. After the Bundestag decision there will be more clarity on the timeline for the project. The Commission and the European Coordinator are following this process closely.

As foreseen in article 55.2 of the TEN-T Regulation¹ the Commission may adopt implementing acts for specific cross-border sections in close cooperation with the Member States concerned. The Commission would be ready to elaborate such an act if consensus to do so can be assured amongst the three Member States. This would complement the technical work already ongoing in the framework of the Brenner Corridor Platform².

The Commission is continuously monitoring the implementation and compliance of the European Transport Corridors through the work plans of the European Coordinators. The next work plan is expected to be published by end of 2026.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1679, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj/eng>.

² <https://www.bcplatform.eu/corridorstudies/>.