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P-002485/2024

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.12.2024)

The Commission adopted on 7 October 2024 its decision on the selection of projects following the 2023 calls for proposals for grants under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Transport sector¹.

The decision includes CEF funding for a study which is part of the Global Project that aims to build a rail-road bridge over the Messina strait, to connect the Region of Calabria and the island of Sicily.

Whereas the Global Project concerns the construction of the bridge, including the preparation of the single executive design, the CEF project addresses only the executive design of the rail infrastructure, namely of the railway permanent link between Calabria and Sicily and its connections with the existing railway network on both landsides.

The project's Grant Agreement (GA) between the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency and the beneficiary (Stretto di Messina S.P.A), entered into force on 10 October 2024. The CEF grant is EUR 24 750 000, i.e. 50 % of the project's total eligible costs.

On 13 November 2024 the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security issued the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Global Project, with overall positive conclusion and several recommendations. It is expected that the process of updating and approval of single final design (which is not within the scope of the CEF project) will soon be finalised, leading to the start of the GA's tasks.

The beneficiary will need to ensure that all procurement rules and other applicable legislation are duly respected.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)6940 final of 7.10.2024:
https://transport.ec.europa.eu/document/download/744ad3f3-22e7-411f-9f04-65b20170a1c0_en?filename=C%282024%296940.pdf