

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000483/26
to the Commission
Thomas Pellerin-Carlin (S&D), François Kalfon (S&D)
(6 February 2026)**

Subject: EU financial instruments for urban road projects

While the European Union is increasingly directing its funding towards sustainable transport, rail, intermodality and reducing road traffic, motorway infrastructure projects are still being planned in a number of major European cities, officially to ease car traffic, including in France.

In view of the above:

1. Which EU financial instruments (Connecting Europe Facility, the Cohesion Fund (even if not applicable to a country such as France), the ERDF, InvestEU, etc.) could be used to help fund a motorway infrastructure project in a built-up urban environment, in particular where it requires a new, heavy road infrastructure, e.g. a tunnel under a city that is not in a cross-border area?
2. Which specific eligibility criteria would these funds have to meet to be mobilised?

Submitted: 6.2.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(13 March 2026)**

1. A balanced development towards a multimodal, smart and sustainable mobility requires adequate investment in all transport modes, including roads, at Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), national, regional and local levels to meet mobility needs of citizens and businesses.

Cohesion policy funds can be used within the framework of regional development programmes to finance roads, including sections of the TEN-T that do not cross borders. However, financing roads is not an investment priority in the 2021-2027 programming period, as increased capacity for individual motorised transport might lead to more congestion and pollution from private car use, especially in urban environments. New infrastructure can be financed from the cohesion policy funds where this is in line with the specific objectives of the Funds and the objectives of the programme, for example to address objectives relating to balancing out regional disparities for connectivity, road safety, etc.

While support has been granted under the Connecting Europe Facility to certain road projects ⁽¹⁾ notably concerning cross-border sections or the upgrading of sections with poor safety record on the TEN-T, projects concerning motorway infrastructure in urban areas are not eligible under the Facility.

2. The selection criteria for cohesion policy co-financed projects are decided by programme managing authorities and monitoring committees and therefore depend on local circumstances and regional development strategies.

⁽¹⁾ https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/3744499f-670f-42f8-9ef3-0d98f6cd586f/sheet/d2820200-d4d9-4a26-b23b-58e323c803c2/state/analysis.