



Atlantic Arc Commission

Summary Note on the EC's Communication: « Building the Transport Core Network: Core Network Corridors and Connecting Europe Facility»¹

With the revision of the TEN-T guidelines², the EU has defined a Core Network of transport infrastructure which comprises all transport modes. The new guidelines also set the deadline of 2030 for the delivery of this Core Network. This process has also given the input to establish the investment priorities and the potential projects to be financed.

An ambitious policy of TEN-T must have a substantial budget to accelerate its implementation. The TEN-T was allocated a budget of 26.250 billion Euros as part of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), including EUR 11.305 billion reserved for Member States eligible for the Cohesion Fund.

I. The functioning of the Core Network Corridors

European Coordinators

In order to implement these core network corridors, the work will be driven by European coordinators, whose tasks are set in the TEN-T Regulation. Each coordinator will be responsible for a single corridor. Additional coordinators will be designated for Motorways of the Sea and the ERTMS. European coordinators act on behalf of the Commission. With the Commission's help, they also chair the Forum of the Corridor. The designated Coordinator for the Atlantic Corridor will be Mr. Carlo Secchi.

ATLANTIC CORRIDOR							
EC	DG MOVE	DE GRANDIS	Carlo	Policy Coordinator - B	European Commission	DG Mobility and Transport	200, rue de la Loi
Spain	CONSULTANT-INEC	VILCHES	Francisco Javier				
France	CONSULTANT-EGIS	JANNIERE	Eric		Egis- Siège social	15 avenue du Centre	CS 20538 Guyancourt
EC	ATLANTIC CORRIDOR	SECCHI	Carlo	European Coordinator for the TEN-T Atlantic Corridor			
Portugal	CONSULTANT-TIS	CARVALHO	Daniela	Head of Economics and Management Unit	Transporte e Inovação e Sistemas (TIS)	Av. Marquês de Tomar 35, 6º	

Corridor Forum and Working groups

The European Coordinator, in close cooperation with the Member States concerned, will set up a Corridor Forum for the respective Core Network Corridor. The Corridor Forum will be a consultative body, chaired by the European Coordinator, involving Member States and other selected members such as regions, infrastructure managers, representatives of Rail Freight Corridors, River Commissions (where relevant), ports, airports, rail-road terminals, operators, users and other stakeholders. The Corridor Forum are at the heart of the Core Network Corridors. They will play a central role in discussing the general objectives of the Core Network Corridor, in preparing and in following up the implementation of the measures laid down in the work plan. The coordinator, together with the Member States concerned, can also decide to set up working groups in order to carry out the technical work regarding cross-border projects, interoperability issues and improving modal integration.

¹ COM (2013) 940 final : <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2013/EN/1-2013-940-EN-F1-1.Pdf>

² Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and repealing Decision No 661/2010/EU, OJ L 348, 20.12.2013.

The work plan

The TEN-T Regulation foresees that for each Corridor a work plan has to be developed within one year of its entry into force. The work plan will analyse the current situation of the Corridor, identifying in particular the relevant parts of the Corridor, its bottlenecks and interoperability problems. It will then identify the actions to be taken, their timing and the required and available financial resources. Actions will include investment plans in infrastructure as well as other measures aiming to eliminate physical, technical, operational and administrative barriers within the various modes of transport and between them, but also to increase the efficiency, the innovative character and the sustainability of transport and multimodal services. In that context the work plan could also identify possible actions to enhance the role of the core sea and inland ports as enablers of inter-modality.

It is necessary to ensure close cooperation between the different governance structures corridors of European transport network (core network corridors, rail freight corridors, river commissions, if any) to ensure consistency of use synergies and avoid duplication.

The work plan must be approved by the Member State concerned, after consulting the Corridor Forum. The Commission may then transform the work plan into an implementation decision, which provides a clear legal framework for the development of Core Network Corridor. During the mid-term review of the CEF, scheduled for 2017, the work plan will also be reviewed to take stock and make the deepening and necessary updates.

Horizontal Coordinators

The TEN-T Regulation provides for two additional Coordinators. These coordinators will work on the coordinated implementation of the Motorways of the Sea and the ERTMS, since these projects will cover the entire Core Network and will benefit from a horizontal approach. The Regulation does not foresee the establishment of a Forum or a work plan for these Coordinators. However, two years after his or her designation, the Coordinator for Motorways of the Sea will present a detailed implementation plan for the Motorways of the Sea that will be based on the experiences and the developments regarding maritime transports in the EU, as well as the provisions of traffic for the Motorways of the Sea. The Coordinator for the Motorways of the Sea is currently Mr. Luis Valente de Oliveira. Starting 1-7-2014, he will be replaced by Mr. Brian Simpson (to be confirmed).

II. Calendar

In order to establish the work plan within the timeline provided for in the TEN-T Regulation, the Commission envisages an indicative timetable for the Core Network Corridors as follows:

First quarter 2014	Nomination of the European Coordinators
April, June, October, November 2014	Meetings of the Corridor Forum to elaborate on the work plan
As of April 2014	Creation and meetings of working groups
December 2014	Approval of the work plan by Member States
January 2015	Possible implementing act by the Commission
As of 2015	Regular meetings of the Corridor Forum and working groups

➔ During the first year, the members of the Corridor Forum will meet more regularly to prepare the work plan. Thereafter, the annual rate of meetings will be slower, depending on the identified needs. Meetings could be held in one of the concerned Member State, in turns.

III. Involvement of the Working Group:

The Atlantic Arc Commission, through its Working Group, will need to:

- Pursue our long term political mobilisation in order to follow the evolutions the TEN-T maps. The Atlantic portion of the Network is very disappointing since several Regions are not served and there is no “real” Atlantic Corridor. Therefore, we cannot allow ourselves to be satisfied by this map, especially when simultaneously, the Atlantic Strategy calls for stronger territorial accessibility.
- Participate, through our Working Group, in the Forum and in the elaboration of the work plan.
- Advocate the important points aiming to reinforce the accessibility of the entire Atlantic Arc to the Coordinator of the Atlantic Corridor. The Coordinators have one year to establish their work plan, which means that we have the possibility to collectively expose our concerns and observations in order to identify the portions of the Network that need to be given priority.
- Bring our Working Group together to collect input on the position of the Regions regarding the priority portions of the Network that should be brought forward. On this occasion we can also bring forward our contribution as a Geographic Commission in the CPMR and within the framework of these Forums organised by each coordinator.
- Bring forward our contributions during the Forums organised by the Coordinator for the Motorways of the Sea in order to identify the “maritime” portions that need to be strengthened along the entire Atlantic area.