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**A vital boost for energy and transport infrastructure:
FIEC welcomes newly proposed multi-annual financial framework
and urges European Parliament and Member States to adopt proposal**

“We are pleased that the Commission has finally proposed a coherent framework for financing the EU’s most badly needed infrastructure projects”, said FIEC President Luisa Todini reacting to the unveiling by the Commission of the next EU multi-annual financial framework.

Todini continued by giving her support for the proposed “Connecting Europe” facility and spelled out clearly that the construction industry will “fight to safeguard the proposed amount of €40 billion!” in the forthcoming negotiations between the European Parliament and Council.

“Thanks to this ad-hoc Facility, €31.6 billion (incl. €10 billion from the Cohesion Fund) will be dedicated to transport infrastructure alone”, explained Todini, “and in addition to this, about €24 billion should further come from the Cohesion Fund. Altogether, this means that a minimum of €55 billion should be dedicated to transport infrastructure over the period 2014-2020, that is, more than the €50 billion available under the current financial framework.”

Furthermore, FIEC considers that the promotion of EU project bonds through this Facility is also encouraging.

“However, in spite of the support which we can expect from the European Parliament, we are a bit worried about the outcome of the negotiations which are starting now”, Todini said. “For the last multi-annual financial framework, the Commission proposed €22 billion to finance the Trans-European Transport Network, but we ended up with only €8 billion!”

“According to the Commission, it is estimated that about €200 billion is needed to complete the trans-European energy networks, €540 billion needs to be invested in the trans-European transport network, and over €250 billion in ICT over the 2014-2020 period”, Todini recalled.

Concerning the promotion of energy efficiency in buildings, while FIEC welcomes the commitment of the European Commission to expand the role of the Cohesion Fund in funding energy efficiency projects, it regrets the absence of any additional support for the new Energy Efficiency Fund in the next Financial Perspective. “What we need is a visionary policy to help us deliver a real market for energy efficiency in new and existing buildings”, highlighted Todini. “This is really a missed opportunity.”

Finally, FIEC welcomes the stabilization of the funds allocated to the Cohesion Policy (€376 billion, incl. the Connecting Europe Facility) and that €15.2 billion are allocated to education and training: “The young people of today are the qualified workers of tomorrow”, stressed Todini, “and we need them badly!”

FIEC is the European Construction Industry Federation, representing via its 34 national Member Federations in 29 countries (27 EU & EFTA, Croatia and Turkey) construction enterprises of all sizes, i.e. small and medium-sized enterprises as well as “global players”, carrying out all forms of building and civil engineering activities.

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