



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: delegations

Subject: Presidency Conclusions on "Mobilizing private financing for transport infrastructure"
- Informal Council of the Transport Ministers in Sopot, 5-6 September 2011

As an outcome of the Informal Council of the Transport Ministers on 5-6 September 2011, delegations will find attached Presidency conclusions on the above-mentioned issue.

Presidency Conclusions

The Presidency:

RECOGNISES that the current public funding opportunities for transport infrastructure are limited and that it is necessary to search for alternative and complementary sources of financing.

STRESSES the need to minimize the impact of budgetary constraints on infrastructure investments by mobilizing and optimizing the use of all available sources of financing - state budgets, EU funds and private sector.

TAKES NOTE of experiences of Member States in the public-private partnerships implementation and EMPHASISES the need to develop a coherent approach within the EU in order to attract private funding and involve private capital in the market of public services in the area of transport infrastructure operation.

STRESSES that not all EU countries apply PPP in the case of infrastructure projects.

WELCOMES the Commission's works made so far to support PPP contracts and EXPRESSES the expectation that results of these works will contribute to the development of a consistent strategy in this area.

EMPHASISES that the EUROSTAT decision 18/2004 of 11 February 2004 should inspire the European Commission and Member States to undertake works at the European level on a model solution regarding the risk allocation and state guarantees.

The Presidency also:

ACKNOWLEDGES that PPP is a useful tool for transport infrastructure financing, but is primarily relevant for those investments where a higher rate of return is expected.

STRESSES therefore that public funds remain of key importance for infrastructure development.

WELCOMES the European Commission's statement regarding financing the comprehensive TEN-T network also from the EU funds.

ACKNOWLEDGES that the current crisis on financial markets impedes the implementation of the PPP model.

ENCOURAGES the European Commission and the European Investment Bank to intensify works on the new financial instruments in order to create solid basis for the PPP projects implementation.

ENCOURAGES the European Commission and the Member States to develop the catalogue of best practices in the area of the implementation of such a PPP model which shall enable better and more efficient execution of PPP projects.

WELCOMES Commission's intention to propose concrete steps to encourage the development of PPP.
