

# Transport connectivity and military mobility in Finland



The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK) considers the Commission's proposal for the new EU financial framework (MFF 2028-2034) to be very positive. The proposed framework would be more strategic in focus and larger in size. A strong emphasis on competitiveness as well as security and defense is particularly important for Finland. The EU's strong support for Ukraine would continue, and Finland's position as an eastern border country is well recognized in the proposal. Funding for military mobility would increase tenfold, and funding opportunities for the defense industry would grow significantly. This offers excellent opportunities also for Finnish companies

## FINNISH INDUSTRIES' MESSAGES TO DECISION-MAKERS

In the current challenging geopolitical situation, it is extremely important to secure Finland's connectivity from several perspectives. Functional and well-maintained transport, energy, and data networks support the connectivity of all regions and ensure the functioning of the internal market. They are also a prerequisite for attracting investments to Finland.

From the perspective of military mobility, it is essential to recognize the importance of the eastern border region for the security of all Europe. Therefore, the Finnish Industries consider the additional funding proposed by the Commission for the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2028-2034 for transport infrastructure and military mobility to be excellent.

It is important that the CEF instrument continues to support cross-border projects that provide European added value. The allocation criteria should be based on the significance of the projects and the improvement of international connectivity. In addition to military mobility, logistical competitiveness must also be considered. Therefore, the Finnish Industries believe that the EU funding rate for projects should result from the European significance of the project in question and not, for example, from a member state's GDP.

The investments in military mobility have strategic importance for the security of the whole of Europe, and this should be reflected in the share of EU funding. The Finnish Industries propose that in the MFF negotiations, the EU funding rate for military mobility projects should be raised from 50% to 75%.

Additionally, EK calls for bold prioritization of strategic projects both at the EU level, and nationally. In Finland, this will mean that funding is sought to strengthen the western connections and security of supply, such as the Rail Nordica project, which will be built on the European track gauge. The most important connections for the EU and Finland are located on the TEN-T core network corridors between Helsinki–Tornio and Turku–Hamina–Kotka/Lappeenranta. From the perspective of international accessibility, it is also urgent to advance national groundwork for the new possible fixed bridge/tunnel options across the Baltic Sea (toward Stockholm, Vaasa, or Tallinn).

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