



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate B – Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport
B.1 – Transport Networks

Brussels
MOVE. B.1/(2026)1765530

Subject: Support study on the connectivity of major TEN-T airports by long-distance rail

Dear Sir / Madam,

Last year, the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission (DG MOVE) launched a support study on the **connectivity of major airports on the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) by long-distance rail**.

The need to establish a comprehensive, pan-European long-distance, including high-speed rail, network has been highlighted in both the Draghi and Letta strategic reports and then emphasised in the 2025 Commission High-Speed Rail Communication. The Communication sets out horizontal actions to enhance the high-speed rail transport in Europe, including the above-mentioned study on the connectivity of major TEN-T airports by long-distance rail.

In addition, this study supports the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 (TEN-T Regulation), which sets out several requirements for rail infrastructure on the TEN-T.

One of those provisions of the TEN-T Regulation lays down that all TEN-T airports with a total annual passenger traffic volume of more than 12 million passengers should be connected to the TEN-T railway network allowing long-distance services by 2040. For passengers, this should entail a possibility to travel with ease by long distance rail to and from the main European airports.

The study encompasses the following objectives:

1. To analyse the current situation of the major TEN-T airports in terms of their connectivity, with a particular focus on the availability of rail infrastructure and on the existence of long-distance, including high-speed, services.
2. To analyse a possible future growth of those airports.

3. To analyse identified obstacles and possible measures needed to improve the airport connectivity.
4. To provide an estimate of the costs of various measures.
5. To highlight best practices or solutions to enhance airport connectivity.

To produce the study DG MOVE is using the services of an external contractor. The Consultant selected is a consortium of M-Five GmbH Mobility Futures, Innovation, Economics (M-Five) and Trasporti e Territorio Srl (TRT). Mr. Wolfgang Schade of M-Five is the team leader.

To be able to carry out his task fully, the Consultant depends on comprehensive and sound input from Member States and stakeholders. Therefore, we kindly ask you for your collaboration in providing the necessary input to the Consultant. All contributions will be treated confidentially and reported only in an aggregated and anonymised manner.

The Commission is aiming to present the first results of the study at the Connecting Europe Days on 30 September 2026 in Brussels.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation,

Yours faithfully,

Silke BROCKS
Head of Unit