# TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS, SUSTAINABLE, INTEROPERABLE AND MULTIMODAL

The Trans-European Transport Networks (or *TEN-Ts*) were planned and launched in the 1980s and 1990s, when it became clear that transportation, energy and telecommunications networks across the continent were necessary to make the single European market work.

**The S&D Group has consistently pushed for the development of TEN-Ts** to make freedom of movement for goods, people and services a reality; to improve European social, economic and territorial cohesion, and **to boost growth and employment**.

The S&D Group is leading the path on the new regulation establishing the TEN-T infrastructure guidelines for the next decades until 2050 and to have new and better sources of financing for TEN-Ts. The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) will allow the investments to build a sustainable, efficient and multimodal network in transport, energy and telecommunication.

Work continues to the present day - with our two S&D rapporteurs heading the negotiations of the new TEN-T guidelines and the Connecting Europe Facility.

Our key principles are these:

- Connecting Europe focusing on projects with high European Added Value in the core network corridors such as cross-border interconnection, solving bottlenecks and missing links.

- Interoperability is the connection of different systems and standards applied in national transport networks - not only connecting motorways and railway lines, but also enabling trains, inland vessels etc. to continue journeys across the territory of different Member States without changing engines or crews. The interoperability of national safety systems will raise safety levels for the travelling public and for transport workers. Interoperability of rail services will make it easier to book train tickets and services across several Member States at a single point of sale.

- Multimodality means better connections between different modes of transport - such as easier road-to-rail transfers of cargo, rail services direct to airports and ports etc.

- Sustainability, a multimodal network will encourage a shift to more environmentally friendly transport - above all, transferring heavy road freight to railways and waterways and decongesting European motorways.

- Telematic Applications applying various technologies for traffic and travel information and traffic management. Implemented across borders in all modes of transport, these systems will make life easier for travellers, transport operators and emergency services - and bring huge gains for efficiency, road safety and respect for the environment.

We believe that additional investment for transport infrastructure will bring disproportionate economic benefits, helping Europe to overcome the economic crisis. It will create jobs, improve connections among the different regions of Europe, deploy new and greener infrastructure and improve safety, convenience and accessibility for Europe's citizens.

**Europe's future depends on investing in the real economy - including a modern transport infrastructure across the continent, which will bring real benefits to all Europeans.**