

## **Declaration on the implementation of the TEN-T Core Network Atlantic Corridor**

"The signing parties to this declaration:

### HAVING REGARD TO

the forthcoming Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network which aims at the development of the TEN-T core network in a coordinated and a timely manner; and that such coordination includes the establishment of a corridor approach as an instrument to coordinate the various projects on a transnational basis in order to maximise network benefits;

the forthcoming Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility which allocates EUR 26 billion from the Union budget for/with the aim of accelerating investment in the field of trans-European networks and leverage funding from both the public and the private sectors for the period 2014-2020 and which identifies for this purpose nine Core network corridors including the Atlantic Corridor;

### CONSIDERING

the role of the Atlantic façade of Europe in connecting the Union to the global and intra-EU trade;

the potential of the maritime transport to be exploited through Short Sea Shipping, Motorways of the Sea, and through enhanced multimodal connections of Core Ports and logistic platforms to the Core Network Corridors;

### RECOGNISING

the significant work which is currently being carried out in the framework of Priority Project n° 3 along the Atlantic Corridor, including the new lines "Tours-Bordeaux", "Y Basque", "Valladolid-Venta de Baños-Burgos", and the section "Plasencia-Cáceres-Badajoz" of the "Madrid-Lisbon" line, as well as the preliminary works and studies for the remaining part of the Corridor, namely relating to the sections "Lisbon/Sines-Caia" and "Porto/Aveiro-Vilar Formoso" during the 2014-2020 Connecting Europe Facility framework, which can leverage the co-financing rates up to 85% for grants regarding the implementation of the Core network;

the progressive deployment of Rail Freight Corridor n°4;

the important role the Intergovernmental Committee Vitoria-Dax and, at technical level, the European Groups of Economic Interest - SEA Vitoria-Dax and AVEP - have played for the cooperation between the French, Spanish and the Portuguese administrations;

### INTEND TO

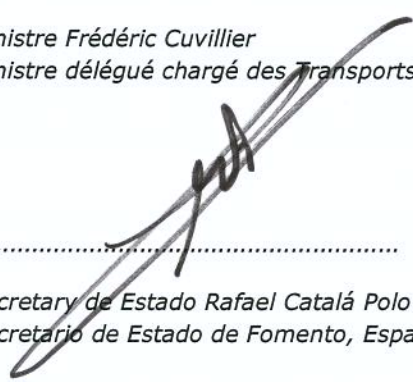
strengthen and broaden the existing coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the French, Spanish and Portuguese sections of the Atlantic Core Network Corridor, building upon the existing coordination mechanisms and in consultation with the Corridor Forum of this corridor;

take the appropriate measures to develop the Core network corridor by 2030 and for this purpose swiftly consolidate the preparatory phase of the various projects and exploit to the fullest extent the co-financing possibilities offered until 2020 by the Connecting Europe Facility and in particular the co-financing rate of up to 40% for grants for works concerning bottlenecks, cross-border sections and enhancing rail interoperability, in combination with the use of financial instruments and the Cohesion Policy, which can leverage the co-financing rates up to 85% for grants regarding the implementation of the Core network;

exploit the potential of cross-border operations between the Member States through the measures envisaged within the framework of the Core Network Corridors;

give priority to the deployment of fully interoperable corridors between the main Iberian cities in the Atlantic facade and France according to the future Corridor work plan.

*Ministre Frédéric Cuvillier  
Ministre délégué chargé des Transports, de la Mer et de la Pêche, France*



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*Secretary de Estado Rafael Catalá Polo  
Secretario de Estado de Fomento, España*



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*Secretário de Estado Sergio Monteiro  
Secretário de Estado das Infraestruturas, Transportes e Comunicações, Portugal*



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*Vice-President Siim Kallas  
Vice-President, European Commission*



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