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ENER 375
POLMIL 218
POLGEN 86
COMPET 752
MI 552
CADREFIN 96
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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	Presidency/General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	Ad Hoc Working Party on the Connecting Europe Facility (AHWP CEF): mandate - Approval

1. On 17 July 2025, the Commission transmitted to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for a Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2028- 2034, amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 (the “proposal for a CEF 3 Regulation”)¹. The CEF 3 proposal represents a sectoral element under the Multiannual Framework Programme 2028-2034.

¹ 11711/25 INIT + ADD 1.

2. On 2 July 2025, the Permanent Representatives Committee approved the setting-up of the Ad Hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework (AHWP MFF) and its mandate.² On 23 July 2025, the Permanent Representatives Committee approved mandates of three subgroups to the AHWP MFF³. The three subgroups of the AHWP MFF will examine three sectoral proposals of a more cross-cutting nature, namely those on National and Regional Partnership Plans, a European Competitiveness Fund and a Global Europe Instrument. The examination of the remaining elements of the MFF package will require specific expertise from the sectoral expert groups, while maintaining an overall coordinated approach given the novelty of the architecture that the Commission has proposed for the next MFF.
3. The aim of the proposal for a CEF 3 Regulation is to provide Union support for investments in trans-European networks for transport and energy infrastructure, including military mobility and renewable energy projects.
4. Given that there is a significant convergence between public support for investments in the transport and the energy sector, for instance in the context of greening road transport, and that the synergies between them, in terms of their funding, project awarding procedures and achievement of objectives, are set out in the same proposal, the preparation of the work of the Council should be coordinated and structured. To this end and in accordance with Article 19(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the Presidency proposes to set up an Ad Hoc Working Party on the Connecting Europe Facility (AHWP CEF) which will assist and report to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) in looking for an overall political agreement.

² 10989/25.

³ 11740/25.

5. The AHWP CEF will be mandated to examine the Commission's proposal on CEF 3, following the “bracketing” exercise, leaving aside the financial and horizontal aspects, which will be discussed by the AHWP MFF, including its subgroups referred to under point 2 and will not overlap with the mandate of the AHWP MFF. Throughout the whole process, a strict distinction will be kept between the financial and non-financial issues. The AHWP CEF will cease to exist upon the adoption of the Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2028-2034.
 6. The draft mandate of the AHWP CEF is set out in the Annex to this note.
 7. Delegations and the European Commission are invited to inform the Presidency and the GSC by 5 September 2025 of the name of their nominated delegate for the AHWP CEF community at the following address: mff.CEF@consilium.europa.eu. The nominated delegate is responsible for managing the list of community members for her/his delegation and needs to have a Delegates Portal account.
 8. In view of the above, COREPER is invited to approve:
 - the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Party on the Connecting Europe Facility (AHWP CEF);
 - its mandate, as set out in the Annex to this note.
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Ad Hoc Working Party on the Connecting Europe Facility (AHWP CEF) Mandate

1. An Ad Hoc Working Party on the Connecting Europe Facility (AHWP CEF) will be convened to assist COREPER in the work related to the proposal on the Connecting Europe Facility.⁴
2. In full respect of the mandate of the ad hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework (AHWP MFF), the AHWP CEF will examine the Commission legislative proposal on the Connecting Europe Facility, following the “bracketing” exercise, and prepare related Council documents.
3. The AHWP CEF will work under COREPER's direction and report back to it.
4. The AHWP CEF will coordinate and closely cooperate with the AHWP MFF on the horizontal and financial issues which are identified as being directly linked to the MFF.

⁴ 11711/25 INIT + ADD 1

Terms of Reference

Ad Hoc Working Party on the Connecting Europe Facility (AHWP CEF)

Code	H.08
Council configuration	<p>The AHWP CEF operates under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> General affairs<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign affairs<input type="checkbox"/> Economic and financial affairs⁵<input type="checkbox"/> Justice and home affairs⁶<input type="checkbox"/> Employment, social policy, health and consumer affairs<input type="checkbox"/> Competitiveness (internal market, industry, research and space)⁷<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transport, telecommunications and energy<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and fisheries<input type="checkbox"/> Environment<input type="checkbox"/> Education, youth, culture and sport⁸
Sub-areas or subgroups (if applicable)	n/a
Policy areas	<p>Under the authority of Coreper, the Ad Hoc Working Party is responsible for the examination of the proposal for a Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2028-2034, amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/1153.</p> <p>The AHWP CEF will report to Coreper in preparation of the work of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy configuration of the Council.</p>
Type of work	<p>The AHWP CEF is mainly in charge of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work on Union legal acts (i.e. legislative acts and other legal acts)<input type="checkbox"/> Policy preparation <p>In particular, the Ad hoc Working Party is in charge of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> legislative act(s):

⁵ Including Budget.

⁶ Including Civil Protection.

⁷ Including Tourism.

⁸ Including Audio-visual affairs.

	<p>Proposal for a Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2028-2034, amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/1153.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other Union legal acts:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> external documents or instruments:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> policy document(s):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other:</p>
Chairing arrangement	<p>The Ad Hoc Working Party is chaired by:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the six-monthly Presidency (co-chairing by the attachés for transport and energy matters)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a representative of the High Representative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, namely:</p>
Observations	<p>- Date of establishment: 3 September 2025</p> <p>- Duration of the mandate: The AHWP CEF will cease to exist upon the adoption of the legislative proposal above, or upon decision by the Permanent Representatives Committee.</p> <p>Main links with other working parties: Working Party on Transport – Intermodal Questions and Networks Working Party on Energy</p>