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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
Council on 8 June 2026
EU Large-Scale Cross-Border Testbed initiative for autonomous vehicles
- Information from the Commission

The Commission and Member States are advancing work on the large-scale cross-border testbeds for autonomous vehicles under the Automotive Action Plan¹. The objective is to support the harmonised and large-scale commercial pre-deployment of autonomous vehicles across Europe. Consequently, we strengthen the competitiveness of EU industry in this strategic sector, while also improving overall road safety.

Over recent months, discussions with Member States and stakeholders have focused on possibilities to align national approaches for permitting, approval and operation of autonomous vehicles. The discussions highlighted the need for closer coordination and harmonisation between the Member States.

¹ COM (2025) 95 final, Industrial Action Plan for the European automotive sector

With the support of the Commission, Member States have prepared a Joint Declaration of Intent (DoI) to guide future cooperation in the large-scale cross-border testbeds for autonomous vehicles. A leading group of over 10 Member States will sign the Declaration in the margins of the TTE Council on 8 June 2026, with more invited to join. The Declaration represents a first milestone for the initiative. It establishes a framework for cooperation on harmonisation, interoperability and coordinated deployment efforts. The next steps will include:

- One workstream focused on identifying common principles and minimum criteria for granting access to the testbeds. It will build on existing national frameworks and will strive for mutual recognition of approvals and coordinated permitting procedures.
- A parallel second workstream bringing together Member States, frontrunning regional and local authorities and the Commission, to coordinate on existing and future deployment activities. The focus will be on practical deployment aspects (inter alia: planning, financing, tendering, integration, communication). At the same time, it will enable participating actors to exchange experience and create a feedback loop to the regulatory work. Use cases will be clustered, notably in public transport, freight and logistics, thereby demonstrating the demand for autonomous vehicles.
- As a first supporting measure the Connecting Europe Facility 2026 work programme foresees 20 million EUR for digital infrastructure dedicated to autonomous driving in the reflow call to be launched in June this year.

The initiative builds synergies with existing initiatives and partnerships, such as ECAVA² Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities³ and the CCAM Partnership, including CCAMBassador and the Large-Scale Demonstrations projects⁴.

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/vehicle-alliance>

³ - ADACities as part of the APPLY AI STRATEGY: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0723>

⁴ <https://www.ccam.eu/> ; <https://www.ccam.eu/projects/ccambassador/> ; <https://www.ccam.eu/our-actions/clusters/large-scale-demonstrations/>