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Targeted EU aid for cross border infrastructure in Europe to underpin the freedom of movement

Today, the EU Ministers for Transport were gathered in Luxembourg for a Council meeting in order to discuss e.g., how EU funds should support infrastructure projects in the EU in the coming years.

At the Council meeting, the ministers agreed on an approach regarding the proposal for the Connecting Europe Facility. The proposal sets out the framework for how EU funds can be allocated to infrastructure projects, and how much support the different types of projects can be granted. The framework will apply for the years 2014 to 2020.

In addition, the ministers agreed on an approach regarding the proposal on noise in the European airports. The aim of the proposal is to lower the number of EU citizens exposed to high noise levels from airports in Europe.

The ministers also agreed on an approach regarding a new and improved management structure for the EU satellite navigation system Galileo.

In this context Minister for Transport, Mr Henrik Dam Kristensen, says:

- I'm happy that we reached important results on a variety of issues at today's Council meeting. With the outcome today, the Council has taken significant steps towards a more robust and efficient European transport sector in the future.

- Europe is dependent on good infrastructure across national borders. With the Connecting Europe Facility, which the Council agreed upon today, we have established the framework for EU funds to be used for realising cross border infrastructure projects in Europe. Targeted EU support for infrastructure, which improves connections between member states, underpins the freedom of movement that is so fundamental for the EU.

- The Council agreed on new rules on noise in the European airports. The ministers agreed that the number of citizens exposed to high noise levels from airports must be reduced, while at the same time taking into account that we must also have a competitive and efficient European aviation sector looking forward.



- The ministers also reached agreement on a new framework for the EU satellite navigation system Galileo. Galileo must be managed in the most efficient and economically sound manner possible. In doing so, we make sure that the system is completed within the planned schedule to the benefit for the many Europeans, who use satellite navigation in their daily lives.