

TEXT OF THE SPEECH OF Ms. IZASKUN BILBAO, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Good morning and thank you very much.



Thank you, because the work you are going to present is a fundamental tool for moving towards a more sustainable, integrated and intelligent European mobility. A mobility system that is coherent with the requirements of decarbonisation and emission reduction to which we have committed ourselves in successive international summits focused on combating climate change.

This study will add rationality and objectivity to the debate which, in some parts of Europe, paralyses or hinders the investments we need to incorporate rail with all its potential into this new mobility system. Most of the movements opposing these infrastructures make local readings of the investments we need to make, ignoring the European dimension of the project. As a result, they do not adequately weigh up the benefits that these trans-European networks bring to the Union in environmental, social and competitiveness terms.

That is why I appreciate, applaud, and thank you for the effort that has been made. That is why I stress the social value that organisations such as FERRMED have and bring to society. They are realities that emerge at ground level, in contact with reality. They are instruments for collecting, valuing, and making the most specialised knowledge operational. They channel the desire of many citizens and organisations to contribute, to collaborate, to get involved in public affairs. And they are a practical and realistic way to achieve results, to carry out work that would be very difficult to complete without this network of positive activism.

To date, there have been impact studies, court of account analyses and territory-by-territory contributions to argue and defend adequately the need to carry out priority investments in the trans-European transport networks. The great contribution of FERRMED is the European dimension of this work, its rigour, the variety of agents that implement it and the methodological innovations with which it is being carried out. This is therefore an unprecedented undertaking, a high quality contribution, with a global vision to promote an equally global undertaking: to have a mobility system that is consistent with the objectives, values, and advantages that we all recognise in our Union.

So it only remains for me to reiterate my thanks for this fundamental contribution and to underline its timeliness. From next December, we will be tackling the review of the European legislation detailing both the planning and the financial instruments with which we are promoting the trans-European transport networks. The report you are producing will undoubtedly contribute to improving the quality and relevance of the decisions we have to take in the coming months.

Thank you very much.