Dear Mr. Aupperle,

On behalf of the European Concrete Paving Association (EUPAVE), I am sending you EUPAVE’s contribution to the public consultation on the European Investment Bank (EIB) revision of its Transport Lending Policy.

EUPAVE has been defending for years the role of infrastructure to achieve a sustainable and competitive transport system. Besides, it has carried out several research and studies in order to prove and improve that contribution.

In this sense, EUPAVE believes that the EIB is a key actor that can contribute to achieve the target. By including sustainability criteria within the requirements to ask for loans in transport infrastructure projects, the EIB can benefit those projects with a sound, real, green and positive impact on the transport system.

For this purpose, please find hereby enclosed a short position paper in which EUPAVE explains this vision together with a brochure outlining the research, studies and results carried out by the association to prove its statements.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Many thanks.

Best regards,

Jaime Rodriguez Medal
Consultant EU Affairs
Since the beginning of its constitution, the European Concrete Paving Association (EUPAVE) has been defending the role of sustainable infrastructure as a key part in a competitive and sustainable transport system.

Sustainable infrastructure make efficient use of natural resources and respect the environment during their entire life cycle; they improve transport facilities for the entire community, they provide services to society in terms of mobility, safety and comfort by means of judicious choices regarding design, construction, maintenance and demolition.

As the recently launched European Commission’s White Paper for the Future of Transport states, our transport systems is still facing some of the old challenges together with new ones which have come. Most of these challenges are environmental but they also deal with people, economy and prosperity.

When policy-makers decide to address these issues, they tend to forget infrastructure as part of the solution. Thus, most of measures focus on improving vehicles and technology efficiency in order to decarbonise the transport sector. EUPAVE believes that infrastructure can also play a role with a clear benefit at different fields: environment, economy and society.

Environmental issues always receive the most attention. In this sense, sustainable infrastructure can play a role by reducing transport’s carbon footprint and fuel consumption. However, these are not just the only benefits in decarbonisation since infrastructure can reduce emissions by the use of low energy materials, the uptake of CO₂ and energy recovery from industrial waste. Besides, some materials can be recycled, have a better reflection of light and reduce heat sink effects in urban areas.

Other important economic aspects such as lifetime, maintenance and the life-cycle cost analysis also need to be considered when planning infrastructure. Nevertheless, these are not the only ones as climatic and environmental performance, lighting costs and price stability are also key factors.
Less roadworks and tailbacks, ride comfort while driving, the enhancement of safety and the limitation of noise can be listed as some of the societal benefits that sustainable infrastructure may bring.

EUPAVE proposes that sustainable criteria should be taken into account in the future EIB's transport lending policy when transport infrastructure is at stake.

As already laid down on the provisions of the European Commission's public procurement directives of 31st of March 2004, sustainable development is one of the most important socioeconomic issues. However, infrastructure is still not considered as part of the game.

Concrete infrastructure not only reduces CO2 emissions and traffic congestion but also enhances road workers safety due to the fact of low maintenance, durability and long term investment.

For further questions about the role of concrete infrastructure in sustainability, please find hereby enclosed a EUPAVE brochure outlining the full benefits of sustainable infrastructure for the future of transport.