



## Opportunities

- The implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement is an opportunity to promote rail as the greener mode of transport;
- New rail projects are possibly eligible for "green" financing (if their impact on EU sustainable objectives is demonstrated);
- A common methodology will make it easier for the financial market to invest in rail projects.

## Challenges

- The EU financial instruments will be more and more articulated around sustainable financing;
- Several economic activities will be difficult to classify according to the "green" taxonomy (e.g. building or upgrading of train stations).

## Objective

Climate change mitigation activities are becoming increasingly important for the EU. As citizens are more aware of consequences of climate change, businesses are seeking to offer more green and sustainable products and services. Within the framework of the Paris Climate Agreement, the EU is currently developing a framework for more sustainable investments. The EU sustainability objectives consist in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including pollution prevention, control and protection of healthy ecosystems. In this context, rail is considered as a green mode of transport and can contribute substantially to these objectives. The European Commission is also working on an "EU Green Taxonomy", a classification system of economic activities that deliver on EU sustainability objectives. Rail should be included in this list.

## Involvement of Infrastructure Managers

Rail Infrastructure Managers (IMs) and the whole rail sector can benefit from having their projects in the EU Green Taxonomy list as it facilitates access to finance and serves as a basis for common international standards. It helps to channel the investments into sustainable transport modes and provides comprehensive criteria to ensure that investments into rail projects contribute to a modal shift.

## EIM in action

- EIM is fully involved in the EU Green Taxonomy for transport and rail infrastructure projects via the [PRIME Financing subgroup](#);
- EIM provides its members with an assessment of potential risks and opportunities;
- EIM advocates rail projects to be fully included in the EU Green Taxonomy classification to benefit from sustainable financing. A neutral taxonomy as regards the types of goods being transported is essential.