



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Eighty-third session**

Geneva, 23–26 February 2021

**Report of the Inland Transport Committee
on its eighty-third session****Addendum****Statement of Portugal at the first panel of the High-level
Policy Segment “Leveraging existing international transport
connectivity solutions as enablers of economic growth and
development: what room for enhanced international
agreements?”**

1. “Portugal has assumed, in January, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and we should stress that the priorities we have defined for the transport sector incorporate the importance of taking the maximum advantage of the existing international transport connectivity solutions as enablers of economic growth and development. This vision assumes a special importance in a moment when the sector needs to recover from the impacts of COVID and when we are aware that the path we now choose to help restore the movement of goods, services and persons, should also contribute to the modernisation and sustainability of the transport sector.
2. The expansion of the international transport networks, with a special focus on promoting an increased capillarity in remote areas, will lay the tracks for a more efficient transport system that is able to achieve a higher level of intermodality and foster the attractiveness of rail for the transport of people and goods.
3. With this agenda in mind — Portugal intends to work jointly with other Member States, and relevant Institutions in order to contribute to the achievement of the goals laid down in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely if we take into account the PPEU2021¹ motto “Time to Deliver: a fair, green and digital recovery” —, we will have the honour of launching the European Year of Rail in Lisbon in March, a unique opportunity to further debate measures enabling both rail infrastructure and rolling stock to contribute to decarbonisation, modernisation and the safety of transport.
4. We invite all to participate in this important digital event.”

¹ Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2021.