



EUROPEAN CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

CINEA.B - Sustainable networks and investments
B.1 - CEF Transport: Northern Europe, Austria + MoS and ERTMS

Brussels,
CINEA.B.B1/MJ/clq

BY E-MAIL ONLY

RB Rail AS
Mrs Kitija Gruškevica
Management Board Member
Satekles iela 2B
Riga LV-1050
Latvia

Kitija.Gruskevica@railbaltica.org

Subject: CEF10 results and the RBR company strategy

Reference: Your letter received by CINEA on 23/08/2024 (our ref. Ares(2024)6003692)

Dear Mrs Gruškevica,

Thank you for your letter of 23 August 2024. I am pleased to hear about the positive effects of the funding allocated to your proposals in the CEF 2023 calls. As you probably know, the CEF 2023 calls were heavily oversubscribed, in particular the COREGEN and CORECOEN calls, which were oversubscribed 4.3 and 2.9 times respectively. Consequently, many very good applications from across all Member States could not be selected due to budgetary constraints.

I would like to commend you on submitting two excellent applications, which placed your proposals in the top, allowing to select the most mature workpackages with the highest EU added value, including also the critical geostrategic importance of the project, and contributing significantly to the realisation of the Rail Baltica mainline from Tallinn to the Polish border by 2030. This gives you access to nearly €1.2 billion CEF funding for these two projects in the Baltic States. We consider this a major success for you and I hope that it is also seen as such in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

This of course comes with a serious obligation for you and the other beneficiaries to deliver concretely and timely against the selected workpackages - also to ensure the full use of the funding allocated.

As you and the other beneficiaries are aware there are budgetary limitations to the Connecting Europe Facility globally. As mentioned above, not all workpackages could receive funding in the latest call despite being essential for the progress of the global project. These workpackages include construction supervision and land acquisition. Nevertheless, we count on the project

partners to ensure that they are implemented in a coordinated manner as the project requires and as part of a single global Rail Baltica project in the Baltic States.

The strong centralised coordination of large cross-border infrastructure projects is fundamental to their successful implementation as a single and interoperable piece of infrastructure. As such, based on the previous experience with Rail Baltica, we see the role of RB Rail as essential for all parts of implementation of Rail Baltica in the Baltic States.

On 24 September 2024 we will publish the CEF 2024 calls. This will allow you to apply for CEF funding again. As regards your question concerning land purchase, this is an eligible cost for funds transferred from the Cohesion Fund in the transport sector in accordance with Article 64 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, i.e. in the CORECOEN call.

In this context we expect a single joint application as in previous calls, with a continued strong centralised coordination, addressing workpackages required to ensure the realisation of a single and fully interoperable Rail Baltica mainline from Tallinn to the Polish border by 2030.

To our understanding, cooperation within the project has improved significantly over the past year and we hope that the project partners will continue this path with a strong focus on delivering the global project and ensuring a single interoperable Rail Baltica in the Baltic States. This cooperation requires a strong coordinating body.

We are available to discuss with you and the other beneficiaries the above in case you have further needs for clarification.

I will read with interest the company's strategy.

Yours sincerely,

Morten Jensen
Head of Unit

Copy to: Mr Herald Ruijters (DG MOVE)