

H.E. António Costa
President of the European Council

H. E. Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

16 October 2026
Brussels

Dear António, Dear Ursula,

We wish to draw your attention to the strategic importance of the Rail Baltica project for the European Union and to reaffirm the unwavering commitment of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to its timely and cost-effective completion during the forthcoming Multiannual Financial Framework period.

Rail Baltica is much more than a transport infrastructure project. It is the only project aimed at completion of missing links of two trans-European transport corridors and EU priority military mobility corridor at the same time. Thus, Rail Baltica is a strategic European investment in security, military mobility, connectivity, economic resilience and territorial cohesion. In the current security environment, the project has acquired even greater significance as a dual-use infrastructure asset that will strengthen the European Union's and NATO's ability to move military personnel and equipment rapidly across the Eastern flank. As such, Rail Baltica represents one of the most important contributions to Europe's collective security and preparedness.

Rail Baltica will establish a high-capacity European-gauge railway corridor in a multi-Member-State region. It is therefore also a tangible investment in European unity and cohesion. No other major transport project combines such a strong cross-border dimension, directly involving four Member States.

Rail Baltica has entered a mature implementation phase across the entire corridor. In the Baltic states nearly half of the main line is already under construction or construction-ready. In Estonia, over 100 km of the railway are under construction, and the rest of the main line is covered by contracts, while in Latvia more than 200 km of the main line are covered by construction contracts and works are progressing on priority sections. In Lithuania, 114 km of the main line are under construction, including sections where track laying has already commenced.

In Poland, implementation of the Rail Baltica corridor continues through major investments, including the recently contracted Białystok-Ełk section, which will deliver nearly 95 km of railway infrastructure and further strengthen the connection between the Baltic States and the rest of the Union. Together, these achievements demonstrate the advanced maturity of the

project and the determination of all participating Member States to deliver Rail Baltica as a strategic European priority.

Against this background, we jointly reaffirm our determination to complete Rail Baltica during the next Multiannual Financial Framework period while keeping an ambitious pace. Our countries remain fully committed to delivering the project and to fulfilling our national responsibilities in its implementation. We will continue to work closely together to ensure its coordinated execution and timely delivery.

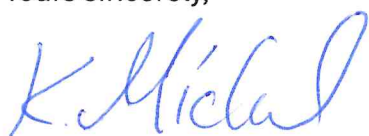
Significant allocations from the national budgets have been committed to the project alongside substantial support from the European Union funding instruments. Building on this, successful completion of Rail Baltica requires strong, predictable and dedicated EU funding under the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Therefore, we jointly call for a Rail Baltica dedicated earmarked financing line in the Connecting Europe Facility. The project delivers substantial European added value that extends far beyond the participating Member States, serving the interests of the Union as a whole in the fields of security, military mobility, competitiveness, connectivity and cohesion.

We trust that the European Council will continue to recognize Rail Baltica as a priority European project and support the conditions necessary for its successful completion. Delivering Rail Baltica will send a clear message that the European Union is capable of investing in infrastructure that simultaneously strengthens security, promotes cohesion and deepens the integration of all its regions.

At a time when Europe is investing more in its security and resilience, Rail Baltica must remain one of the Union's top infrastructure priorities, backed by funding that fully reflects its strategic significance for both the EU and NATO.

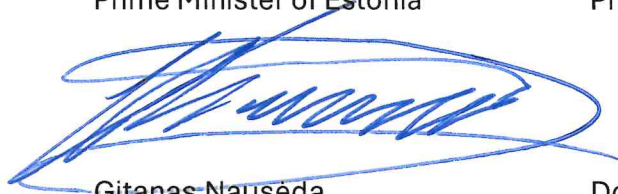
Yours sincerely,



Kristen Michal,
Prime Minister of Estonia



Andris Kulbergs,
Prime Minister of Latvia



Gitanas Nausėda,
President of Lithuania



Donald Tusk,
Prime Minister of Poland