

Press Release

THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF CONCESSIONAIRES AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IS ESTABLISHED IN BRUSSELS

- Among the founders of the new European body created to promote public-private partnerships are major international players such as Mundys, CriteriaCaixa and CCIES.
- The new European organisation has been established to promote institutional dialogue, advance the concession and public-private partnership model, and contribute to the development of efficient, innovative public procurement aimed at strengthening the competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of infrastructure and public services in Europe.
- The association's first contribution to the European debate was the presentation in Brussels of a study analysing the evolution of the concession model and public-private partnerships in the field of European infrastructure.

Brussels, 10 July 2026 – The European Chamber of Concessionaires and Public-Private Partnerships ('ECP') has been officially established in Brussels. The new European association has been created to foster institutional dialogue and represent, before the European institutions, organisations engaged in the development, modernisation, and management of infrastructure and public services through concession and public-private partnership models.

Europe is confronting significant challenges including infrastructure modernisation, the energy transition, digitalisation, sustainable mobility, public service resilience and the mobilisation of long-term investment. In this context, collaboration between the public and private sectors is an essential tool for advance strategic projects that support the European Union's economic growth, competitiveness and territorial cohesion.

The founding members of the ECP are Mundys, CriteriaCaixa and the Chamber of Concessionaires of Infrastructure, Equipment and Public Services (CCIES), entities that share a common vision regarding the importance of concessions

and public-private partnerships as instruments serving the general interest, sustainability, competitiveness and development of Europe.

The association has been established with a growth-oriented vision, progressively welcoming new operators, associations and organisations from the various Member States, to build a European platform representing key sectors linked to concessions and public-private partnerships, including infrastructure, mobility and passenger transport, water management, environmental and waste services, energy, public facilities and other essential services underpinning European citizens's daily lives.

In this regard, various organisations in these fields have already expressed their interest in joining the initiative and are currently at different stages of the membership process, which will enable the association to expand its representativeness and presence throughout the European Union over time.

First contribution to the European debate

The ECP's first official action was to present the study 'Building the roads of tomorrow: public-private partnerships and the challenges of infrastructure in Europe' (2026) in Brussels. Coordinated by Professor José Manuel Vassallo of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, in collaboration with GAMES Economics, the study analyses the European landscape, drawing on the principles highlighted by Mario Draghi and Enrico Letta in their respective reports on the future of European competitiveness and the single market, and on how to meet the continent's needs in the coming years.

The study highlights that the concession model represents an effective and sustainable solution. As noted by Professor Vassallo, within the framework of a public-private partnership, private actors can play a role in financing the modernisation of cross-border infrastructure networks, including roads and motorways. This can be done without increasing public debt or raising taxes, while contributing resources and technical expertise in the field of sustainable development.

A turning point for the future of European public procurement

In 2026, the process of revising the European public procurement directives (2014/24/EU and 2014/23/EU) began, a strategic process that will shape the future of public procurement, concessions and public-private partnerships in the European Union.

In this context, the review of the European Directives represents a key opportunity to reflect on the role that concessions and public-private partnerships can play in achieving the European Union's objectives of competitiveness, sustainability and strategic autonomy.

The ECP aims to contribute to the European legislative process by promoting a regulatory framework that fosters collaboration between the public and private sectors and facilitates the mobilisation of the investments needed to address the European Union's challenges of competitiveness, sustainability and resilience. In this context, concessions and public-private partnerships can play a significant role in the development of high-quality infrastructure and public services, combining the planning and oversight capabilities of public administrations with the expertise, innovation and efficiency of specialised operators.

A European voice for concessions and public-private partnerships

Drawing on established national experiences such as that developed by CCIES in Spain, the ECP aims to become a leading European forum for analysis, reflection and dialogue on the role of concessions and public-private partnerships in the development of high-quality infrastructure and public services.

The ECP is chaired by Christian Masset, former French ambassador to Italy and Japan and former Secretary-General of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He currently serves as chairman of Azzurra, the Italian-French holding company of the Mundys Group which controls the Aéroports de la Côte d'Azur (ACA) group. With his extensive experience in the

diplomatic and institutional spheres, he will help to strengthen the organisation's standing and dialogue with European institutions. The current Board is composed of the following members: Christian Masset as Chairman, Francesc Sibina Buron, Leduina Petrone and A. Rey as Vice-Chairs and Alberto Dorrego de Carlos as Secretary of the Governing Body.

With its establishment, the ECP marks a new phase of representation and dialogue at European level, with the aim of contributing to the development of sustainable infrastructure, high-quality public services and modern public procurement capable of addressing future challenges particularly in the context of the ongoing revision of the European Directives on public procurement and concessions.