

Discorso pronunciato dal Presidente del Consiglio di Stato Manuele Bertoli
in occasione dell'incontro con la Commissione Politica di coesione territoriale e bilancio
dell'Unione Europea (COTER) sul cantiere del tunnel di base del Monte Ceneri
Sigirino, 8 giugno 2017

– Fa stato il discorso orale –

Distinguished Commissioners and Parliamentarians,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the name of the Government of Canton Ticino I warmly welcome you at the Alptransit construction site of the Monte Ceneri base tunnel.

It is of utmost importance for us to have you here today as Commissioners for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget. Alptransit, whose heart lies in Switzerland and in Ticino, is a strategic project that will have an impact far beyond the Swiss boundaries and which needs to be efficiently connected with the EU railways system.

The opening of the 57 kilometers long Gotthard base tunnel, whose commercial services became operational on December 11th 2016, will be completed by the Ceneri base tunnel, scheduled to open and become operational in 2020.

The finalization of the Monte Ceneri base tunnel will meet the regional traffic needs of Canton Ticino, reducing considerably the journey time between the cities of Locarno and Lugano. But, most importantly, with its completion the continuous flat route through the Alps will become reality.

Despite the fact that Switzerland is not part of the European Union, Ticino is certainly one of the most integrated areas in the continent. More than sixty thousand cross-border workers travel every day through the Swiss-Italian border. As you can imagine, besides labor market worries, intensive regional traffic is one of the most sensitive political issues in Ticino.

We are confident that the completion of Alptransit with the opening of the rail connecting Ticino with the city of Varese in Lombardy and the international airport of Malpensa, scheduled in December 2017, will contribute to a more integrated and sustainable transport system for Ticino and the Italian cross border regions.

In order to make the most out of these efforts the project needs to be efficiently completed also outside the Swiss borders, South and North, allowing goods and passengers to travel on rail from Rotterdam to Genoa.

I hope you enjoyed your visit and that you will be willing, through your work as parliamentarians, to help Alptransit to be duly completed and become the heart of a strong European integrating transport system.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Manuele Bertoli
Presidente del Consiglio di Stato