

Financing research, innovation and infrastructure development

Pablo PEREZ-ILLANA

Deputy Head of Unit, EC-CINEA



Short bio

Since 2021 Pablo Pérez-Illana is Deputy Head of Unit at CINEA, the European Commission's Agency in charge of Transport, Energy and Climate research, innovation and infrastructure deployment (e.g. Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe, Innovation Fund and Connecting Europe Facility programmes).

CINEA Horizon Transport unit counts with more than 30 officers to implement collaborative research and innovation in aeronautics & air transport, surface transport and urban mobility.

Since 2004 Mr. Pérez-Illana is civil servant at the European Commission, DG Research & Innovation in Brussels, with special focus on aeronautics, urban air mobility and international cooperation.

From 1999 to 2004 he worked at the European Space Agency's Operations Centre in Darmstadt (Germany) as GMV Flight Dynamics Engineer for Mars Express, Rosetta and Smart-1 missions.

He is Aeronautical Engineer M.Sc. by Polytechnic University of Madrid - ETSIA, where he also researched on heat transfer and computational fluid dynamics.

Abstract

CINEA is the European Commission's agency financing transport, energy and climate research, innovation and infrastructure deployment.

EU research and innovation framework programmes have been pioneering projects on urban air mobility, not only covering vehicles technologies but also infrastructure and socio-economic aspects. Horizon 2020 framework programme's projects as ASSURED-UAM, AURORA, AIRMOUR and FF2020 are preparing for the deployment of eVTOL vehicles along with Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans. The projects aim not only at public acceptance but also at public embracement, with pilot applications such as emergency services.

Moreover, innovative projects on electrification in urban areas provide insights on the infrastructure challenges and potential solutions to integrate transport, energy and communication networks for seamless mobility. Horizon Europe framework programme for 2021-2027 offers new opportunities for this emerging sector at the intersection of aviation and sustainable urban mobility. A new instrument is the Mission to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities in Europe by 2030.

Financing infrastructure development is the scope of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for 2021-2027. More than EUR 31 billion are managed by CINEA not only for CEF trans-European networks of transport and energy but also for CEF urban nodes and for the deployment of SESAR U-space infrastructure, a key enabler for urban air mobility.