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## 1<sup>th</sup> Road Safety Working Group Meeting (RS WG) Skopje, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Present:

### RS WG Members:

- Nenad Nikolic, Transport Planning Manager, SEETO - Chairman of RSA TF,
- Besnik Petrela, Lawyer, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Albania,
- Antolovic Drazen, Directorate of Strategic Infrastructure Objects, Ministry Of The Sea, Transport And Infrastructure, Croatia,
- Valben Mustafa, Adviser, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- Kiril Karkalasev, Agency for State Roads, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- Jasmina Jovanovic, Head of Road Safety Prevention and Transport Telematics Group, Ministry of Infrastructure, Serbia,
- Rame Qupeva, Director of Road Infrastructure Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99).

### Guests and observers:

- Sasa Jasic, Public Company "Republic of Srpska Roads", Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Dalibor Milosevic, Adviser for Roads, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Telecommunications, Montenegro.

### The Project (RWR/RSA Project)

- Vassilis Evmolpidis, Team Leader, Senior Railway Expert, RWR/RSA Project
- Lutz Pfeiffer, Senior Road Safety Auditing Expert, RWR/RSA Project
- Dejan Jovanov, Junior Road Safety Auditing Expert, RWR/RSA Project
- Marina Blazevic, Project Administrator, RWR/RSA Project

### Apologies for absence from

- Mr. Jean-Paul Repussard, DG TREN, chairman of RS WG
- Kemal Karkin, Head of PIU - TTFSE Project Manager, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Vjekoslav Bolanca, Directorate for Road Traffic, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia,
- Miroslav Masic, Advisor for Road Transport, Ministry for Infrastructure, Montenegro,
- Demir Hadzic, Head of Road Safety Department, Ministry of Infrastructure, Serbia.

The background documents referred to in these minutes were sent in advance and hardcopies were distributed to all participants.

### **Introduction and welcome, adoption of the agenda**

The Chairman of RSA TF opened 1<sup>st</sup> RSA WG Meeting, apologized for absence from Mr. Jean-Paul Repussard, chairman of RS WG and welcomed all attendants. Mr. Nikolic asked all representatives to introduce themselves.

Mr. Nikolic explained that it is important to continue with the meetings of WG and proactive Regional cooperation with support of the European Commission. Feedback to EU from WG is necessary and important.

Proposed Agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> RS WG meeting was adopted.

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## **Item 1. Presentation - Road Safety: the European Union policy**

Mr. Nikolic briefly presented the presentation of Mr. Repussard on Road Infrastructure Safety Management Directive. Presentation about EU Road Safety Policy was delivered to the wider audience at 2<sup>nd</sup> RSA Workshop.

Participants agreed about the importance of RS WG role in the future.

## **Item 2. How effective are the national road safety policies in the SEE Region?**

Each attendant was kindly requested to present the experience of the respective SEETO Participant on the subject matter of the topic.

Mr. Qupeva commented that implementing RS policies requires continuity and daily effort for effectiveness. He said that current global crisis does not have great impact on Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99) and that funds are provided for the development of RS goals. Mr. Qupeva said that according to the World Bank study an RS Council will be established by middle of 2009. The budget for its operation has been secured in national budget but the experts are missing. He also said that WG meetings and deliverables of the RWR/RSA Project are useful for the RS Council. Mr. Qupeva pointed out that sharing of knowledge and practise is very important and that the current project should increase sustainability by providing project extension on education and certification of auditors.

Mr. Mustafa said that his country is in phase of getting the RS Law. According to adopted National RS Strategy the Action Plan for 2008-2009 was prepared and adopted. Concerning the Regional RS Strategy (deliverable of RWR/RSA Project), Mr. Mustafa said that its adoption may be a problem as "double work", but the RSA/RSI Manuals that have been provided are good. Establishment of certified RS Auditors is good action, according to Mr. Mustafa. He said that with rules for getting RSA licence and with sufficient quantity of knowledge, they can become a good mechanism for the protection of work in RSA departments.

Mr. Karkalasev added that in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia they are started with implementing the Annual Action Plan with black spots removal, new lighting in tunnels etc.

Mr. Nikolic kindly asked the RWR/RSA project to answer if Regional RS Strategy (RRSS) is necessary for official adoption or SEETO Participants can use it as overall platform in order use the necessary parts from it?

Mr. Pfeiffer said that delivered material could be used by the Participants. Mr. Jovanov said that RRSS constitutes guidelines and can be used to develop National RS Strategy (NRSS). National RS Strategy adopted in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is not as detailed as necessary and that the RRSS report can be used to improve that. Mr. Evmolpidis commented that the purpose of the Project deliverables is to create harmonisation at the level of principles in SEETO Region. Mr. Pfeiffer commented that RRSS can be made available at the next Ministerial meeting. He also said that Germany does not have National RSS.

Mr. Nikolic commented that RRSS should be used as a platform for the development of the NRSS.

Mr. Antolovic said that Croatia adopted National Road Safety Program for 5 years and the results are positive. Concerning Auditing, he asked who will audit the Auditors? Mr. Evmolpidis answered that certifying Auditors by one international or regional organisation is an idea for not having to audit of Auditors. In 2, 3 or 4 years SEETO Participants may have their own certification bodies...

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Mr. Nikolic commented that RSA represents use of standards and the best practise and the limited number of certified Auditors should raise the profile of the RSA. He also commented that Audit is for improving the RS knowledge, and updating the relevant procedures.

Mr. Milosevic said that Montenegro is in the process of introducing RSA. The new Law on Roads are in preparation by the Ministry of Transport, while the Law on Road Safety is introduced by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Also, National RSS is in the preparatory phase.

Mr. Petrela said that the RW/RSA Project is going well and that is useful. Concerning Albania, there is a technical assistance project ongoing financed by the WB. One of the main tasks of the consultant is to install the digital map for black spots to monitor them by using the GIS. Mr. Petrela said that the system of GIS is going to be used for all national roads. The Government of Albania is supporting the road safety by mentioned in all new road management contracts. He commented that this is on disposal for all Ministries and Directorates. This is an instrument not for today, but for tomorrow. Also Mr. Petrela pointed out that road safety has increased the intention of government. Last three years has been invested from national budget around 200.000 Euro only for road safety, before there were no investments in road safety at all.

Mr. Jasnica apologized, because he is more familiar with information from the Republic of Srpska, but he informed the meeting about overall road safety situation in the Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr. Jasnica said that changes in Laws of the Bosnia and Herzegovina are ongoing as planned, RS Council setting up is ongoing, and the Advisory of RS Council of Ministries is already established. He pointed out that National RSS of Republic of Srpska is adopted by Parliament and NRS Program is adopted by Government. RS Agency will be installed on entity level, but its sustainability is in question because the budget for the Agency is not adopted yet. Mr. Jasnica also said that RSA and RSI should be included as mandatory in the Republic of Srpska Law of Road Safety. Through RS Methodology of identification and black spots they have defined the black spots and now they are in the process of collecting data for data base. Mr. Jasnica also said that they had not so good experience with Revision Commission.

Mr. Evmolpidis asked Mr. Jasnica to explain the difference between RS Council and RS Agency. Mr. Jasnica answered that RS Council is Advisory body of Republic of Srpska without legal responsibilities, which is not the case with RS Agency. He explained that RS Council is installed between government and various Ministries as governmental institution, and RS Agency is actually interministerial institution. Mr. Evmolpidis asked what will happen after establishing the RS Agency. Mr. Jasnica said that after that they will need political support for decisions that RS Agency will make.

Mr. Pfeiffer commented that the role of Revision Commission will be mentioned in the revised RS Audit Manual that the Project is preparing.

Mrs. Jovanovic said that Serbia does not have policy of Road Safety, but they have proposal of new Law on Road Safety in Parliamentary procedure. RSA/RSI is stated in the Law. Ministry of Internal Affairs will bill this Law. Mrs. Jovanovic stressed that the agreement with WB has been made for preparing the National RSS through a project financed by 2M Euro. Mr. Evmolpidis commented that the government should use those funds for additional work since a good part of that has been already done in RWR/RSA project (the Regional RSS).

Mr. Nikolic suggested that any additional information can be sent by SEETO Participants to SEETO Secretariat and will be placed in the web site of SEETO as regional news.

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### Item 3. Possible topics and work programme for the RSWG until the end of 2009

Mr. Nikolic said that possible topics of next WG meeting which will be in September 2009 could be: Certification of the Auditors, Road Safety Policy, Tunnel Safety, Digital Tachograph, Use of ITS in Road Safety and the ideas will be sent to Mr. Repussard as feedback.

Mrs. Jovanovic proposed digital tachograph as topic and commented that all SEETO Participants have same problem, but they do not need the same help.

Mr. Qupeva proposed transport issues for WG meeting, and not Digital Tachograph which is high level topic for SC, not WG meetings. He said that sustainability of knowledge, training and certification of Auditing could help a lot to SEETO Participants (longer life time sustainability).

Mr. Nikolic commented that this can constitute an extension of the Project and that he will inform SC about that.

Mr. Evmolpidis proposed building of awareness on road safety issues (i.e. through campaigns).

Mr. Jasnic said that support of EU and EC to local experts regarding RS issues is very important.

Mr. Nikolic stressed out that it is important to read Project deliverables and give comments to SEETO and RWR/RSA Project in order to improve deliverables.

Mr. Jovanov proposed the following topics: Road accident database (how much RS Database is open and precise), Institutional capacities building, Increasing of road safety knowledge of road safety experts in each SEETO Participants (exchange of knowledge/best practice), building of road safety Library at SEETO level (with translations of major documents and publications) and to prepare the Media campaigns of speeding, wearing safety belts, alcohol, helmets, etc.

Mr. Nikolic asked WG members to send their ideas by e-mail to Mr. Repussard and to him.

#### *Conclusion:*

- *Participants stress the importance of RW/RSA Project sustainability. Topics of training and certification of auditors, as Project extension should be elaborated further,*
- *Several proposals for 2<sup>nd</sup> RS WG meeting topics are presented, and any new ideas are welcome.*

### Item 4. Next meeting (Pristina), Conclusion and AOB

Mr. Nikolic pointed out that next RS WG meeting will be held back to back with 3<sup>rd</sup> RSA WS in Pristina 9-11<sup>th</sup> September.

#### *Conclusion:*

*Mr. Nikolic thanked to all attendants for participation and said that exchange of news and knowledge is very useful and he stressed out that SEETO Region is should be even more proactive in road safety issues.*

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