

## **Outline of Potential Short-Term Assignment to Support SEETO with the Development of Project Fiche for EC-financed assistance**

### **1. Background**

There are a number of important developments in the transport sector in the Western Balkans at both policy/strategy level and project preparation and implementation level. These include: the on-going TEN-T revision where efforts are being made to ensure appropriate links with the transport network in the region; the preparations for finalisation of the Transport Community Treaty; and the evolution of the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) which blends grants and loans to expedite the realisation of priority infrastructure projects in the region. Finally, the severe impact of the financial crisis has undermined the capacity of the countries to fund future capital expenditure requiring governments and external financiers to seek further prioritisation of transport investments and to try to identify innovative financing mechanisms.

SEETO is the key regional organisation in this sector and provides a platform for the development and coordination of regional transport policy and projects in line with the MoU on the Core Transport network signed by different Western Balkan parties and the European Commission in 2004.

The SEETO Secretariat provides a number of valuable support services including data collection, analyses and dissemination of information, management of key working groups e.g. railways and soft measures, preparation of the multi-annual development plan, provision of management, technical and administrative support to the SEETO Steering Committees which oversees the development and implementation of regional transport policy and projects.

The Western Balkan members currently funded the operating costs of the SEETO Secretariat. Given the various developments in both policy and project development in the transport sector, it is considered useful that the SEETO Secretariat deepens and expands its activities to provide more analyses and/or capacity development.

It is proposed that the SEETO Secretariat prepare a short-medium term work programme that addresses the key tasks required to ensure that the SEETO members continue to progress in terms of developing and implementing policy and investments. Assuming that this work programme is endorsed by the beneficiaries (e.g. the SEETO Steering Committee and the NIPACs) and is in line with EC policies and plans, SEETO could submit a funding request to the IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme for 2012 to finance some of the proposed activities. In order to secure such financing, a project fiche outlining the agreed tasks should be submitted to the EC in the autumn 2011.

The primary responsibility for developing the work programme and the subsequent project fiche should lie with the SEETO Secretariat (in consultation with all stakeholders). Through the EC financed project to support EC and IFI coordination in the Western Balkans, a short-term consultant can be made

available to assist SEETO with the development of the work programme and project fiche.

Activities under the short-term assignment would include:

- Review the current SEETO work programme and proposals for expansion;
- Review current development in the transport sector (policy and project development);
- Consult with all SEETO stakeholders and related organisations/projects (e.g, SEETO SC, EC, IFIs, Infrastructure Project Facility, SEETAC);
- Support the SEETO Secretariat to develop a medium (2 year) work programme; and
- Support the SEETO Secretariat, to develop a draft project fiche in line with EC requirements for approval by the SEETO SC and subsequent submission to the EC

### **Timing and Duration**

The assignment would start in July 2011 and should to be completed by end October 2011. An initial allocation of thirty-five man-days are foreseen for this assignment.