

**Seventh Annual Meeting of Ministers
on the Development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network**

“Common problems – Shared solutions”

November 29th, 2011

Antwerp Congress Centre, Marble Hall

PRESS INFO

South East European Transport Observatory (SEETO)* and the European Commission are hosting the **7th Annual Meeting of Ministers** for development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, which is going to be held **in the framework of the TEN-T days**, on 29th November 2011 in Antwerp Congress Centre.

The Meeting shall be attended by high level delegations from the Transport and Infrastructure Ministries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99), as well as the European Commission, various transport related institutions and the International Financial Institutions. The Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Transport, **Mr. Siim Kalas** is one of the key speakers at the Annual Ministerial Meeting.

In addition to the recognition of the progress made in the development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network and its inclusion into the revised EC Guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T), the Regional Participants shall commit to undertake long term measures to secure financing for the SEETO Priority Project list, as well as further reforms in the transport system in line with the EU Transport and TEN-T policy.

On the occasion of the 7th SEETO Annual Meeting of Ministers, the 2012 **Multi Annual Development Plan** shall be delivered. It presents a regional transport planning document, agreed jointly by all SEETO Participants that gives an overview of the development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, presents the main regional priority projects and streamlines further reforms in the transport sector. In the Plan, the reported investments in the SEETO Comprehensive Network from 2005 to 2010 are €5.698 billion, while the total investment needs for the overall 35 programmes from the 2012 Priority Project List amounts to € 8,403 billion, to be carried out in the next midterm rolling period.

In the Conclusions to be adopted by the 7th SEETO AMM and released upon the Conference, the Ministers commit to further develop the SEETO Comprehensive Network, welcome the efforts of the European Commission to provide assistance in implementing horizontal and policy measures, and support the preparation of a comprehensive transport study for the Western Balkans. They undertake political commitment to take on further steps for development of environmentally friendly modes of transport and encourage transport co-modality, as well.

The event is open for media interested in the topic. Taking photos and filming is limited to the first 5 minutes at the beginning of the event. The meeting would not be followed by a press conference.

Please note that a prior registration for the TEN-T days is requested (as explained on the: <http://www.ten-t-days-2011-antwerp.eu/>).

***South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO)** is a regional transport organisation established by the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 by the Governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the European Commission. The aim of SEETO is to promote cooperation on the development of the main and ancillary infrastructure on the multimodal SEETO Comprehensive Network and to promote and enhance local capacity for the implementation of investment programmes, management and data collection and analysis on the SEETO Comprehensive Network.

More information can be found on www.seetoint.org.