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

“Common problems – Shared solutions”

**November 29th, 2011
Antwerp**

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding on the development of SEETO Comprehensive Network,

Highlight the achievements of the past period, especially with regard to:

- updated definition of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, which confirms the prospects of the Western Balkans transport network to become a part of the extended TEN-T
- creation of the SEETO Multi-annual Strategic Work Programme which assures sustainability of the SEETO and strengthen its crucial role and competence in and for regional transport planning
- increased credibility of the MAP priority Project list where financing has been secured for 27 transport infrastructure projects, out of which the works have been completed for 10
- significant improvement of the SEETO Comprehensive Road Network condition. The percentage of roads in Very Good and Good condition rose to 56% in 2010 from 36% in 2005 whereas Very Good and Good condition in railways has accounted 14% of the SEETO Comprehensive Railway Network

Take note of the latest developments in transport sector and infrastructure, in particular:

- conclusions from the Transport Investment Conference TRINCON 2011 held on April 19th 2011 in Sarajevo, which encouraged a comprehensive dialogue among the Regional Participants, European Commission, International Financial Institutions and private sector for the most strategic regional priority projects and measures for facilitating investments

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- results from the Western Balkans Investment Framework's workshop held on October 5th, 2011 in Skopje which enabled synergy among relevant stakeholders regarding suitable use of available instruments for financing transport projects drawn from the SEETO Priority Projects list
 - estimations for the total investments required for implementation of Priority Projects in MAP 2012 are amounting to 8,608.46 billion EUR
 - strengthening of the multimodal character of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, demonstrated by an increase of projects related to environmentally friendly transport modes` (57% of all projects) in the MAP 2012
 - trend of increasing private sector involvement in the airport sector through models of concession applied to a few SEETO Comprehensive Network Airports which led to their reconstruction and modernisation and overall increase of air transport efficiency

Agree on the following conclusions:

- Accept the recommendations of the Steering Committee with respect to the Multi Annual Plan 2012 for the period 2012 - 2016 and in doing so adopt the aforesaid Plan as the principal planning document for development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network;
- Welcome the definition of the SEETO Comprehensive Network in line with the proposed Regulation on TEN-T Guidelines adopted by the European Commission on October 19th, 2011 and stress the importance of adhering to the principles of the TEN-T Guidelines
- Commit to undertaking the necessary long term measures to secure financing for the MAP 2012 Priority Project list, using the full potential of the available coordination mechanisms of the European Commission and International Financial Institutions and benefiting from the SEETO institutional set up in the regional promotion of priority projects
- Support preparation of a comprehensive transport study for the Western Balkans for 2030 horizon to serve as a basis for joint policy actions to be carried out in coordinative and timely manner by all Regional Participants for the purposes of achieving reliable and sustainable transport systems
- Welcome the efforts of the European Commission to provide assistance in developing horizontal measures which complement and add to the infrastructure development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network and aim at harmonisation of the regulatory framework and institutional capacity building; Encourage common regional efforts in implementation of such horizontal measures, which are likely to have greater impact than the efforts of a single Regional Participant

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- Commit to undertaking further steps in reforming the railway systems according to the EU legislation and taking into account the coordination done under the SEETO Working Group on Railways
 - Recognise the need to underpin the growth of environmentally friendly modes of transport with a view of developing sustainable co-modal chain and therefore, call for conducting an Inter-modal study in foreseeable future to examine the options, models and incentives for development of inter-modal transport
 - Support the formal adoption of the Transport Community Treaty which establishes an integrated market for infrastructure and transport, accelerates the integration of the regional transport systems and enhances the transport operations within the region and with the EU.

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