

## Steering Committee for the Development of the South East Europe Regional Core Transport Network

### 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting

March 20-21<sup>st</sup>, 2007

Ohrid, Macedonia

#### Present:

##### Members (Voting)

- **Izet M. Bajrambašić** Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications and Transport Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Chairman**
- **Mate Jurišić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Croatia, **Deputy Chairman**
- **Angelina Živković**, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Miodrag Jocić**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia
- **Kujtim Hashorva**, Director of Road Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, Albania – **nominated as SC member for this meeting**
- **Francois Begeot**, Policy Officer, EC DGTREN **Deputy Co Chairman**

##### Deputy Members (Non Voting)

- **Mate Gjorgjievski**, Head of Unit, Secretariat for European Affairs, Macedonia
- **Amna Redžepagić**, Advisor for European Integration, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Elinor Bajraktari**, Economic Policy Office, EU Pillar

##### Apologies for absence from

- **Osman Metalla**, Director, Directorate of Maritime Transport Policies, Albania
- **Nikola Šego**, Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Natasa Mikus**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of European Integration, Croatia
- **Svetlana Gligorovska**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Transport & Communications, Macedonia
- **Gordana Lazarević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Serbia
- **Florim Grajcevc**, Political Adviser, Ministry of Transport and Communications, UNMIK/Kosovo
- **Edgar Thielmann**, EC DGTREN, **Co-Chairman**

##### SEETO Team and Advisor to the Steering Committee

- **Slavjanka Petruševa**, SEETO General Manager
- **Dejan Dević**, Transport Planning Manager
- **Andrija Gencel**, Information Resources Manager
- **Jordana Fićović**, Administrative Assistant

##### Guests and Observers

- **Joaquim Rodon Blas**, Team Leader, Safege IRD, Montenegro
- **Dejan Zlatković**, Consultant, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Serbia
- **Nenad Nikolić**, **Head of Prevention and Transport Telematics Group**, Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia
- **Jozef Zuallaert**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Transport & Telecommunications, UNMIK/Kosovo
- **Rame Qupeva**, Head of Road Infrastructure Department

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### Administrative matters

- Adopting Agenda for the meeting – Chairman proposed to SC Members to involve National Coordinators during afternoon session of the 11<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting and to associate 6<sup>th</sup> NC Meeting with SC Meeting.

*Conclusion: Proposal was adopted, Agenda changed and delivered to all participants.*

After adoption of new Agenda, Chairman thanked to Mr. Jozef Zuallaert for good cooperation in past years and asked him to introduce new deputy member from UNMIK/Kosovo – Mr. Elinor Bajraktari.

- Adopting minutes from previous meetings (SC8, SC9, SC10)
  - Comments on SC8 Minutes (Pristina):
    - Croatia – page 2, 3rd chapter, last spot is not correct and should be deleted - Adopted
    - Montenegro – page 3, 5th chapter, delete second paragraph bellow specified comments - Adopted
    - Albania – page 3, 6<sup>th</sup> chapter, to delete comment about SEETO – Adopted
  - Comments on SC9 Minutes (Zagreb):
    - Serbia - page 3, last paragraph to be deleted – Adopted
    - EC – page 3, chapter regarding Core Network modification and River Sava to be changed – Adopted
    - Montenegro – as regards to page 3, Core Network modification and River Sava, these Minutes should include Annexes and Maps of MoU - Adopted
  - Comments on SC10 Minutes (Brussels):
    - Macedonia – page 3, Soft Measures-Road Safety Auditing, in the last sentence RWG to be corrected with SC – Adopted
    - EC – page 3, Soft Measures-Border Crossing Issue, second spot to be deleted – Adopted
    - Montenegro – page 2, Methodology and timing for modification of the Core Network, first sentence – “the Alteration” to be changed with Modification - Adopted
    - Serbia - page 3, Soft Measures-Road Safety Auditing, first sentence – delete Auditing for Working Group, because Working Group should be for Road Safety and not for Road Safety Auditing. Soft Measure can stay as Road Safety Auditing – Adopted

*Conclusion: Minutes are adopted*

Before continuing with the Agenda, Chairman informed all participants about Regional visits that he and Mrs. Petrusseva had during January and February 2007. He explained that there is only Albania left to visit and that following was agreed during these visits:

1. Meetings which are organized in Ohrid
2. that SEETO is going to stay technical and administration support and that experts will be from beneficiary countries
3. SEETO will continue to organize SC and NC meetings in the Region
4. All SC members and NC will work on promotion of SEETO and MAP

### **Presentation of the Communication on the extension of the major trans-European axes to the neighboring countries and region. Guidelines for transport and neighboring countries (François Bégeot)**

As a part of presentation, Mr. Bégeot explained next steps. He mentioned that very soon EC will contact all beneficiaries to discuss some exploratory talks; EC might have some recommendations and proposals for each neighboring country. Mr. Bégeot also explained the World Bank initiative for railway reconstruction in SEE countries. EC and WB would propose an addendum on current MoU about a common network statement, access charges and open railway market.

Following the presentation, Chairman proposed a discussion which raised different questions:

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- Croatia was interested who will prepare the addendum for the current MoU. Mr. Begeot informed that EC and WB will prepare it; they will make a proposal, but with active participation from each country, and RWG members will be especially involved. To enable signing of this document on the last SC Meeting in 2007, the document should be prepared for the September SC Meeting.
- Bosnia explained that WB support is welcome, but the document has to be discussed between SC Members.

*Conclusion: EC and WB will propose document which will be discussed between SC Members, and document will be finalized for signing on the last SC Meeting in 2007 for AMM*

**SEETO beyond 2007; Policy and Strategy** - Action Plan and Strategy should be done up to June and adopted until the end of 2007. Official reporting by each SC members stressed following points:

- Bosnia stated that SEETO should prepare report about implementation of 2 MAPs (MAP 2006-2010 and MAP 2007-2011). This report should be prepared based on received information from each signatory.
- Serbia explained that, as regards to the Transport Development Strategy, it is finalized in a cooperation of foreign and local experts and become a very good document, however extensive, EAR financed Serbian Strategy document, now has to be adopted by the government. Serbia reminded that they fully support SEETO activities and that in future SEETO should add to soft measures, because soft measures are very important and it is the best way how SEETO could help.
- Montenegro representatives explained that people from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport drafted Strategy last year, expecting to be adopted in April 2007, hoping that it will attract private capital investments. From SEETO they are expecting modification of Core Network and to include projects from Transport Development Strategy even it is not fully on the Core Network. EC asked from Montenegro to propose and provide modification of CN and then there can be discussion.
- Croatia explained that with their Transport Development Strategy from 1999, Croatia achieved almost everything in road sector and they have to build the remaining 250km of motorways until 2008. These days they are just about to make a new Strategy, waiting to see what will be with railway and other modes of transport. They would like to see the effects of their new motorways on the intermodal network. Croatia also asked about Core Network changes, because from the REBIS Study situation in the Region was changed.
- Macedonia – speaking of Policy and Strategy the most important is MoU and Macedonia reminded about institutional support they provided in order to establish MoU. Government of Macedonia fully supports specific objectives of SEETO as well as MAP 2007-2011. As regards to expectations from SEETO, the biggest effort should be in preparing next MAP, conditions and performance of Core Network (including SEETIS) and acquire update of Network. They are fully support soft measures developed in MAP 2007-2011 and forming of Road Safety Working Group. Even aware that countries have to find finances by themselves, they are expecting SEETO, as it already became internationally recognized, to provide regular forums, where countries might connect with different IFIs and private sector.
- Albania explained that role of soft measures is very important; he would like to see more soft measures in order to resolve nonphysical barriers like licenses. They made an agreement about annual transport licenses with Greece and Macedonia and increased the trade and transport with these countries. Regarding Core Network, Albanian Government accepted the Core Network completely and expects from SEETO some new proposals and new access for South Central axis which is the shortest way from EU to Greece.
- UNMIK/Kosovo explained that they recently prepared regulatory bodies for railways in alignment with EU Standards and also strengthening aviation regulation with TAIEX assistance. They are working on a 2008-2012 road safety action plan and safety charter. They consider SEETO as body which constitutes important cooperation and this could provide chance for important bilateral agreements.

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Stressed the need of transport liberalization in order to have benefits of the CEFTA agreement. SEETO can act as a forum to promote cooperation and help removing non physical barriers, harmonizing policies and procedures. In the new MAP they would like to see a focus on railways, also to track the changes and objectives since the previous MAP. Financing is most critical part of building transport network and SEETO could provide an important link to different financial institutions.

- EC welcomed the rich discussion, confirmed that we achieved consensus on soft measures, because everyone put importance on it. It has to be our first priority and we should push signing of Agreement on the next Ministerial Conference. The beneficiaries should inform SEETO about their developing Strategies and also EC which would like to give Technical Assistance to fine tuning of the National strategies. EC also confirmed that it is very important to follow up implementation of previous MAP. As regards to the Core Network Modification, EC agree to update it reasonably, duly justified, but beneficiaries have to have input on modification. EC would like to have Study on Traffic Forecast on the Core Network in general and suggested that Traffic Forecast could be financed from budget of 2007 or 2008 and started in autumn 2007 or beginning of 2008. This Study is very important and there should be agreement on it. EC also proposed forming of Working Group for Core Network Modification as well as meeting to be organized in Brussels to agree on all these proposals. Brussels could be good place for the meeting because full support could be provided. EC will also support initiative for permits removing. Another issue that EC stressed is invitation for Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as SEETO representatives to present Corridor Vc in front of EC, WB and other IFIs.

### **SEETO Action Plan 2007**

After his introduction, new Transport Planning Manager, Mr. Dejan Dević made presentation, covering two items from the Agenda - SEETO Action plan 2007 and Structure of MAP 2008-2012. Mr. Dević announced the plan of SEETO team to visit all beneficiaries to enhance communication, data collection and resolve related issues and also gave the deadline according to the inherited plan from his predecessor for project update and submission – 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2007. This raised different comments and remarks:

- Serbia asked to move deadline for one or two weeks, and although the aim of SEETO is to avoid delays in producing a new MAP, this suggestion was noted.

*Conclusion: Deadline for project update and submission is preferably May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, but will be adjusted according to the schedule and results of the Data Collection visits.*

- EC gave couple remarks:
  - MAP relies on data collection which means that if data collection is good, MAP will be good as well
  - Second remark is on Core Network Investment Programme, that everyone should be careful about projects to avoid producing something inaccurate.
  - Follow up of MAP is very important
  - In providing information to SEETO, beneficiaries has to be very precise, because documents are based on these information

### **Core Network modification**

This topic raises different opinions among SC members.

- Chairman suggested forming Working Group from 4 SC Members who will prepare criteria.
- Mr. Begeot underlined that EC has to be part of Working Group that should meet in May in Brussels to work before and prepare concrete proposals for next SC Meeting. WG should be small group which would prepare document for decision makers, meaning SEETO SC Members. Then, on June SC Meeting there should be discussion on new criteria and on September SC Meeting discussion on MAP 2008-2012.

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- Considering this WG as very important, Serbia and Macedonia asked to make some consultations before forming this group and that each country should have representatives in it.
- Croatia agreed with Serbia that each country should have representative in the Working Group, but they should meet and react immediately
- UNMIK/Kosovo also supported idea that Working Group should involve representatives from each country
- Croatia was strict in asking for immediate reaction, because the same subject has been discussed several times. As there already exist some examples for criteria established by EC, each representative should pay attention to them, as well as on system used in HLG and submit ideas to SEETO in 10 days.
- EC prolong deadline and propose that each SC Member send own proposal to SEETO in two weeks

*Conclusion: Proposed and delivered document "Modification of the Core Regional Transport Network of South East Europe" was changed according to agreements during discussion. Document has been adopted as starting point and working document. Each beneficiary has seven days to agree on the working document, and upon approval, there are 4 weeks time to submit proposals which has to be according the MoU.*

### **MAP 2008-2012**

According to the Agenda, SEETO had following presentations:

- Presentation of ITQ (Dejan Dević)
- Data Problems Presentation (Andrija Gencel)
- Presentation of SEETO Forums (Andrija Gencel)

Comments:

- Serbia and UNMIK/Kosovo asked prolongation of deadlines (at least two weeks).

### **SEETO National Budget**

Proposed lines for SEETO National Budget were agreed during January and February 2007.

*Conclusion: Budget was approved and signed, with note that Budget reserve must be marked.*

Chairman proposed Procurement Commission to be formed from beneficiary representatives that paid contribution. After discussion, only Montenegro definitely confirmed, Bosnia quit, Macedonia and UNMIK/Kosovo asked to confirm after consultations.

*Conclusion: Commission for Procurement should consist of delegates from Montenegro (Angelina Zivkovic), Macedonia (Mate Gjorgjievski) and UNMIK/Kosovo (Rame Qupeva) representatives. Written confirmation has to be sent to SEETO.*

### **Nomination of Candidate for New Chairman**

Chairman suggested to all participants to think about proposal for new Chairman, to discuss this point during next month and final decision has to be made on the 12<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting in June. Agreed

### **Minutes Approved**

Chairman .....Date.....

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