

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

### Sixth Meeting

April 27/28<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Sveti Stefan, Montenegro

#### Present:

##### Members (Voting)

- **Osman Metalla**, Director, Directorate of Maritime Transport Policies, Albania
- **Izet M. Bajrambašić** Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications and Transport Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Chairman**
- **Florim Grajcevc**, Political Adviser Ministry of Transport and Communications, UNMIK Kosovo
- **Svetlana Gligorovska**, Head of Department for International Investments and Integration, Ministry of Transport & Communications, Macedonia
- **Miodrag Jocić**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia
- **Angelina Živković**, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Joep Boerboom**, Seconded National Expert, EC DGTREN **Deputy Co Chairman**

##### Deputy Members (Non Voting)

- **Nikola Šego**, Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Jozef Zuallaert**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Transport & Telecommunications, UNMIK/Kosovo
- **Amna Redžepagić**, Advisor for European Integration, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro

##### Apologies for absence from

- **Gjergji Tenequexhi**, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance, Albania
- **Mate Jurišić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Croatia
- **Davor Čilić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of European Integration, Croatia
- **Melaim Ademi**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, FYRo Macedonia
- **Gordana Lazarević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Serbia
- **Edgar Thielmann**, EC DGTREN, **Co-Chairman**

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

- **Slavjanka Petruševa**, SEETO General Manager
- **Douglas Rasbash**, SEETO Manager, **Advisor to the Steering Committee**
- **Alexander MacDonald**, Planning Expert
- **Goran Kecman**, Planning Manager
- **Andrija Gencil**, IT Manager
- **Mirjana Čizmarov**, SEETO Legal Advisor (first part of the meeting)
- **Jordana Fićović**, Administrative Assistant

##### Guests and Observers

- **Romir Ametaj**, TA to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, Albania
- **Kujtim Hashorva**, Director, Road Transport Policy Department, Albania
- **Nenad Nikolić**, Head of Prevention and Transport Telematics Group, Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia
- **Srđan Vukčević**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Radoš Šućur**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Francois Begeot**, Policy Officer, EC DGTREN

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**1. Opening by the Chairman** - Chairman opened the meeting introducing new SC member from Albania, Mr. Osman Metalla who substituted Mr. Eduard Prodani, SC Deputy Chairman. At the previous SC meeting, Belgrade, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006, in the absence of Mr. Prodani, SC made decision that, Mr. Mate Jurisic will replace him as Deputy Chairman.

Conclusion: at the next SC meeting, members will confirm the appointment

Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (Belgrade 14<sup>th</sup> February 2006)

Matters arising:

Macedonia

- o Evaluation criteria were adopted without presence of all voting SC members and this fact should be stated in the minutes from the 6<sup>th</sup> SC meeting - Accepted
- o In regards to the last sentence on the page 4 – *“If SC Members do not provide SEETO Secretariat with necessary information, Secretariat will have to make own conclusions”*, comment was that NCs are those who should provide information to SEETO, and not SC members – Not Accepted

EC had comment on first paragraph in section *“General on Plan”* because it refers to Article 4 in the Agenda - *“SEETO Working Plan for 2006”*. This change was agreed.

Conclusion: Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting will be changed and signed at the next meeting

- Approval of the agenda  
As Chairman expected long discussion and many comments on MAP, he proposed to have points 3 and 4 after points 5 and 6 and SC members adopted this proposal.

**2. Report on the state of implementation of AMM resolution 10 (position of National Coordinators) - tour de table**

Discussion:

- Serbian delegation stated that the position of National Coordinator can not be legalized until the SEETO Agreement and AMM Resolution is signed by all participants.
- Macedonia replaced National Coordinator, who is well positioned and has good contacts between ministries and public enterprises, cooperation with SEETO should be better.
- Albania also changed National Coordinator and hopes that there will be better cooperation with public enterprises.
- Bosnia stated that their National Coordinator is performing well.
- Montenegro will advertise position of National Coordinator and Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs of Republic of Montenegro will cover costs.
- UNMIK/Kosovo retained National Coordinator position and stressed need for more support from SEETO

SEETO reminded members that as a result of Tirana Meeting, which was one year ago, SEETO responded and tried to develop this subject with the Commission. Mr. Thielmann already asked SC members to support National Coordinators and from AMM there is the Resolution, which should help in NC positioning. Also, there is a gap because the NC position was not mentioned in the MoU or any other document. SEETO is aware of importance of NC position and, if SC members approve, SEETO is going to engage three planning assistants who will help and support cooperation between National Coordinators and SEETO.

Conclusion: SC members will ensure that National Coordinators have appropriate authority. National Coordinators should cooperate better with SEETO and SC members approved SEETO proposal to provide planning assistants that will support NCs.

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### 5/3. SEETO Ad-hoc working groups

- Approval Terms of reference
- Nomination of candidates Rail and Intermodal Working Group by SC members (deadline 22 April)

Conclusion: Mr. Frank Jost is appointed as a Desk Officer and Chairman will be appointed by Commission. SC Members should delegate members for RWG as soon as possible.

### 6/4. Soft measures, legal and regulatory reform

- Introduction
- Discussion on the basis of Annex C of the Multi annual plan (Indicative list of soft measures)
- Further prioritisation

The MAP included 9 measures to support Transport Sector Planning Capacity and selected 2 as very important: Support to SEETO including engaging NC and Trade and Transport Facilitation Phase II.

In regards to Road, 7 measures were proposed in the MAP and the most important is Road Safety Auditing of the Core Network.

For the Railway sub sector 14 measures were proposed and the most important five are Regional monitoring, Operations facilitation and action plan, Border controls on moving trains, Regional Railways sub-sectoral strategy and Preparation of Common Network Statement and Preparation of product plan for Corridor X.

For Intermodal Transport, 3 most important soft measures were identified: Multi-modal development capacity building, SEE Intermodal Development Strategy, Provide the legal basis for multi-modal operation.

Discussion on soft measure raised a proposal from Serbian delegation about forming of Road Safety Working Group. EC supported this proposal. Commission also supported Rail and Road soft measures, but for Intermodal soft measures EC asked SEETO to submit more information. Commission acknowledged that more resources needed to be found to implement the measures and proposed Railway and Road Safety measure for CARDS financing.

#### Conclusions:

- Annex C was adopted.
- Railway and Road soft measures were adopted and will be promoted for funding by EC
- For the next meeting SEETO will change text for Intermodal soft measures.

### 3/5. Five year Multi Annual Plan 2006 to 2010

- Summary of comments and responses
- Discussion
- Approval

From the discussion on the Multi Annual Plan the main problem was the exclusion of projects which have important national interest:

- Albanian delegation had objection because Tirana Airport is not included.
- UNMIK also had objection on the list of projects and prioritization used in the process of preparing the list is not acceptable for them.
- Macedonian objection is because of excluding Corridor 8. Because of that Mrs. Gligorovska didn't get authorization from the Minister to support the Plan and proposed discussion on criteria
- Montenegro suggested that there should be more railway projects, but, generally they didn't have any objection.
- Serbian delegation agreed with the Plan in general, but with one remark – as Belgrade Bypass is going faster that they suggested, Serbian delegation will have some changes on this project for Plan 2007-2011.

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- Bosnian delegation had objection because as signed document MoU didn't include Priority Project List as Regional and now list of projects includes only regional projects. Also, for Bosnian delegation list of projects is very confused and there was also confusion in project fishes. To avoid confusion, they proposed discussion on project list for each country separately.

SEETO reminded delegations that they already agreed on criteria, that projects were chosen as Regional (and for those which are Regional but were not included in the list, SEETO didn't get enough information). From the beginning of this process SEETO was clear about the minimum information.

EC was surprised with the comments of SC members, especially as after previous SC meeting, stating that they should understand that regional interest is the most important. EC confirmed that it met their requirements, stressed the need for participants to submit fullest information to avoid unacceptable prioritisation. Commission agreed that there was a progress in the MAP, especially on following three points:

1. approach is more strategic
2. used methodology for prioritisation of projects - adopted on the 5<sup>th</sup> SC meeting
3. soft measures are included

After long discussion that extended to 11am of the second day, SC members had agreed a revised priority list of MAP projects and it was adopted. SEETO was asked to make the prioritisation process less of a black box and SEETO agreed to be more transparent.

After consultations with the Ministry, Montenegro delegation asked to exclude one port from Project list and to include railway project. SC members agreed with this.

#### Conclusions:

1. Project list will be revised to include proposed changes for Montenegro projects and it will be adopted
2. MAP is adopted
3. SEETO should prepare the Plan for publication using professional printing.

#### **4/6. Follow up MAP 2006-2010**

Agreed steps which will follow up MAP:

- Based on decisions of the Steering Committee, SEETO will revise the Plan
  - SEETO will prepare high quality document for general issuing
  - Plan will be presented to IFI's and ISG during the May. Chairman agreed with EC to organize this meeting.
  - To hold investors conference and to introduce Plan to stakeholders. Place and date to be agreed
  - Promoting Plan to governments and agencies, especially to ministers of Transport, Finance and European Integration. Letter will be sent on behalf of Chairman
  - To proceed with the priority list, feasibility or pre-feasibility studies, SEETO included a list of proposed fishes FS/PFS which are needed to prepare much more information for the Plan 2007-2011
  - EC will follow up on soft measures to obtain financing
- Preparation of 2007 to 2011 Plan, deadlines
  - Data necessary for project screening
  - Information needs on Core Network

Next steps were agreed:

- Next AMM will be on 08<sup>th</sup> November in Sarajevo and 8<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting will be one day before Annual Meeting of Ministers.
- 7<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting will be on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006, in Pristina.
- 5<sup>th</sup> NC Meeting will be in June in Tirana. Date will be agreed.
- Minutes of all meetings will be sent to EC
- A new table containing prioritised projects by country to be included in the MAP
- SC accepted 2 year limit to carry out feasibility study

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- o EC rejected SEETO proposal for limit of 600 points for prioritizing projects

#### **7. SEETO Report by SEETO General Manager**

- SEETO financing, registration, VAT, Bank, Payment Procedures
- SEETO Organization – approval for new planning assistants, IT Equipment
- Proposed SEETO Budget for approval

SC members were provided with SEETO registration documents and brought up to date about SEETO registration and legalisation in Serbia.

Referring to the distributed budget and mentioning that it was circulated on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006, SEETO General Manager briefly explained SEETO budget and asked all members to submit their comments as soon as possible. SEETO confirmed that budget contribution for 2006 is based on REBIS and for 2007 will be based on 2006-2010 Plan. SC members agreed that they will check procedure for releasing money and SEETO proposed visits to all countries to agree about this matter in detail.

SC members were advised that Croatia, UNMIK, Bosnia and Herzegovina still had not signed the SEETO Agreement, but explained that this problem will be solved very soon with UNMIK and Bosnia (which was confirmed), but Croatia needed more time.

Chairman reminded that this was last meeting where Mr. Boerboom is Deputy Co-Chairman, because Mr. Begeot will replace him. Mr. Bajrambasic welcomed Mr. Begeot and thanked to Mr. Boerboom for cooperation. Chairman also thanked to all SC members for one year cooperation and gave them certificates, prepared by SEETO, for this cooperation.

Meeting closed 12:30. 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006