

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

### **Fifth Meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> February 2006  
Belgrade, Serbia

#### **Present:**

##### **Members (Voting)**

- **Izet M. Bajrambašić** Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications and Transport Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Chairman**
- **Joep Boerboom**, EC DGTREN, **Deputy Co Chairman**
- **Mate Jurišić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Croatia
- **Florim Grajevci**, Political Adviser Ministry of Transport and Communications, UNMIK Kosovo
- **Miodrag Jocić**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia

##### **Deputy Members (Non Voting)**

- **Nikola Šego**, Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Vjeran Bašić**, Department for the coordination of ISPA Programme, Directorate for the Coordination of Assistant Programs and Cooperation with EU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EU Integrations
- **Jozef Zuallaert**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Transport & Telecommunications, UNMIK/Kosovo
- **Afrdita Ramadani**, Head of Unit, Ministry of Transport & Communications, Macedonia
- **Srđan Vukčević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Gordana Lazarević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Serbia (first part of the meeting)
- **Dejan Zlatković**, Consultant, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Serbia

##### **SEETO Team and Advisor to the Steering Committee (non voting)**

- **Slavjanka Petruševa**, SEETO General Manager
- **Douglas Rasbash**, SEETO Manager, **SC Meeting Secretary**
- **Mirjana Čizmarov**, SEETO Legal Advisor (first part of the meeting)
- **Alexander MacDonald**, Planning Expert
- **Andrija Gencil**, IT Manager
- **Bojan Trifunović**, Financial Assistant
- **Jordana Fićović**, Administrative Assistant

##### **Apologies for absence from**

- **Edgar Thielmann**, EC DGTREN, **Co-Chairman**
- **Eduard Prodani** Secretary General, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Albania, **Deputy Chairman**
- **Gjergji Tenequexhi**, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance, Albania
- **Davor Čilić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of European Integration, Croatia

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- **Svetlana Gligorovska**, Head of Department for International Investments and Integration, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Macedonia
- **Melaim Ademi**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Macedonia
- **Angelina Živković**, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Amna Redžepagić**, Advisor for European Integration, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro

### **Substitute Members**

In absence of SC members from Macedonia and Montenegro, there were substitute members, Mrs. Afrdita Ramadani, Head of Unit in the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Macedonia and Srđan Vukčević, Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport in Montenegro.

#### **1. Opening by the Chairman**

- Chairman opened the meeting introducing new SEETO General Manager, Mrs. Slavjanka Petruševa and EU Planning Expert, Mr. Alexander MacDonald.
- Agenda was approved.

#### **2. Minutes of meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> SC Meeting, Zagreb and 4<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting, Skopje**

- Signing of Minutes of Zagreb and Skopje SC Meeting

Minutes were approved and signed without any discussion.

- Matters arising from the Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting, Skopje

Two points arising from the minutes:

1. Signing SEETO Agreement and Resolution by three countries
  2. Information on soft projects
1. Signing SEETO agreement, by 3 countries

Three months after Annual Meeting of Ministers, Skopje November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 signatures on SEETO Agreement and Resolution are missing from Croatia (Agreement), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Agreement) and UNMIK/Kosovo (Agreement and Resolution).

Regarding Croatia there is a problem because MoU is not an international contract, which means that it can not go through the Government. Even though, procedures for signing are still going on through ministries. All SC members reconfirmed that financing is not an issue for their governments and is secure.

Bosnia and UNMIK/Kosovo confirmed that they are not expecting any difficulties in signing; it is just a question of time.

Mrs. Čizmarov, legal advisor to SEETO stated that changes can be added as an Annex.

Conclusion: SEETO should find a way this signing process to be continued with all beneficiary countries.

2. Information on soft projects

As there were no submissions on soft projects, the Secretariat requested an explanation from members.

From the Chairman we got explanation that they are waiting to adopt the Plan and than there can be discussion about soft projects.

From the discussion we can extract couple of proposals:

1. EC reconfirmed that Plan should include soft projects

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2. National Coordinators should be involved together with SC members
3. Proposed projects may include road safety and movement of passengers and trade
4. Border crossing network should be coordinated
5. Soft projects should be linked to loan conditions of IFIs

**Conclusion:**

Each country should send on going projects and, if there is need, should define soft projects. Final proposals should be sent in three weeks, latest. March 7<sup>th</sup> is deadline.

### **3 Project Evaluation Criteria and Methodology**

- **Progress from previous SC Meeting, Skopje.**
- **Presentation by Mr. Douglas Rasbash**
- **Discussion on criteria**

#### **Presentation and Discussion**

SEETO Secretariat was instructed to produce guide lines that should be used for criteria.

The Secretariat presented its proposals to SC as requested at Skopje meeting, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The key recommendations were:

1. 16 criteria
2. 5 groups
3. Criteria weighting to be average of the scoring from each member and SEETO (9).

SC agreed on 5 major groups for criteria:

1. Regional Interest and Strategy
2. Economic and Development Impact – the most important strategy that should stimulate economic development in region
3. Financial Sustainability
4. Environmental and Social Impact
5. Technical Aspects

Having agreed criteria and groups, the next step is criteria evaluation.

The Plan will contain all projects, but those with best scores will be stressed. SC members should provide Secretariat with required information. As there is opinion that these information will be of national interest, Secretariat should choose projects which are of regional interest.

After extensive discussions the recommendation was commonly agreed by the SC.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

National interest – Croatia said national interest was very important. SEETO stated that it was not for the Secretariat to determine national interest. Serbia supported saying that all projects submitted to SEETO should already reflect national interest.

The conclusion was that all projects submitted would fully reflect national interest, but it should not be criteria for SEETO.

#### **Description of Criteria**

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1. Coherence as Regional Interest - approved
2. Proportion of International Traffic – approved with comment:  
Mr. Boerboom mentioned that coherence should be with all planned or done projects
3. Interoperability as Regional Interest - approved
4. Economic Feasibility – approved
5. Development Impact – approved
6. Accessibility – approved
7. Costs - approved
8. Financial sustainability – approved with comments:  
Mr. Bajrambasic was wondering if investment costs are included in it. If you have economic feasibility, we can not calculate this as criteria. Mr. Rasbash gave explanation that GDP is base for these criteria, but SEETO is open for suggestions.
9. Financing including the level of commitment –:  
Mr. Boerboom explained that there are two types of financing – internal from beneficiary countries and external from IFIs. After discussion on this subject, Mr. Rasbash proposed to make it easier – if anyone thinks that any of these criteria are not important, they can score it with 0, or small mark. He mentioned that it is very important for IFIs to see that all criteria are included and it is not good sign if we exclude any. Mr. Jurišić and Mr. Vukčević agreed.
10. Possibility of private financing – Approved
11. Environmental Impact – approved.
12. Promoting sustainable mobility – approved with comments:  
Mr. Zuallaert asked for clarification and it was clarified by Mr. Rasbash as taking care of all transport modes.
13. Social Impact – approved with comments:  
Mr. Rasbash should revise it.
14. Inter-modality – approved with comments:  
If there is explanation for people and goods transport, this criterion can be adopted.
15. Technical Feasibility –Approved
16. Defined Technical Standards – approved with comments:  
Mr. Bajrambašić explained that MoU is about harmonization and technical standards in transport, so it should be included. After this explanation, this criterion was approved.

General conclusion on projects criteria:

All criteria should be included but if someone think that any of these criteria are not important it can be scored with 0. The most important is that total score is 100.

Criteria evaluation framework was adopted.

After discussion on criteria and according scoring, the most important criteria are Regional interest and Economic and Development Impact.

Mr. Rasbash reminded that this document will be used for the Plan 2006-2010, but for the Plan 2007-2011 it would be the best to have more information. If SC Members do not provide SEETO Secretariat with necessary information,

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Secretariat will have to make own conclusions. It is important to provide Secretariat with at least set of information with two criteria from the table.

Conclusion: criteria weighting can be adopted. Dead line for sending projects is Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

SEETO should provide all SC Members with relevant passwords.

#### **4. SEETO Working Plan for 2006**

Presentation of SEETO Work Plan was given by Mrs. Slavjanka Petruševa, Head of SEETO.

SEETO Work Plan contains main four points:

1. Results from 2005
2. Theme for 2006
3. Detailed Activities
4. Expected Results

Mr. Bajrambašić was interested in next NC Meeting, March 13/14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Mr. Rasbash explained that first day is for NC to describe what they are doing. It is to make clear the capacity of NCs, especially because ministers promised in Skopje that they will give full support for them. Second day is reserved for SEETIS presentation. This presentation is important for collecting data on projects.

Technical note 2 is document for those who would like to see what SEETIS is. The most important is that EC is very supportive for this meeting.

#### **5. Next meeting**

- Montenegro April 2006 date to be fixed

Mr. Bajrambasic confirmed that during the March everyone should get copy of Draft Annual Plan and next SC Meeting could be in Montenegro, on April 27/28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

- General on Plan:

Mr. Boerboom would like to see summary distributed next time. He was very satisfied with progress on criteria, and EC is counting on SEETO for very good Plan. He confirmed that soft measures are very important and that IFIs should be more involved in this project. The best would be for Secretariat to use next ISG meeting to exchange information and submit dating. Also, he would like to have an early draft of the Plan in early March, so there is possibility that Plan will be adopted in April.

Two things were pointed:

1. Good consultation of priority list
2. Plan

Terms of reference on working groups will be circulated very soon. Mr. Boerboom proposed that adoption of Terms of reference can be in agenda for April SC Meeting and SEETO Secretariat should have coordination with stakeholders on this matter. Also, ISG meeting in February should be used for this Terms of reference.

Conclusion: 7<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting will be in early September.

Mr. Jurisic is proposed and selected as a second Deputy Chairman in absence of Mr. Prodani on the position as Deputy Chairman.

Meeting closed 17:30.

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