

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

### **Forth Meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Skopje, Macedonia

### **Present:**

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

- **Eduard Prodani** Secretary General, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Albania, **Deputy Chairman**
- **Joep Boerboom**, EC DGTREN **Deputy Co Chairman**
- **Nikola Šego**, Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mate Jurišić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Croatia
- **Florim Grajcevci**, Political Adviser Ministry of Transport and Communications, UNMIK Kosovo
- **Svetlana Gligorovska**, Head of Department for International Investments and Integration, Ministry of Transport & Communications, Macedonia
- **Angelina Živković**, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Nenad Nikolić**, Head of Prevention and Transport Telematics Group, substitute representative for Serbia

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

- **Jozef Zuallaert**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Transport & Telecommunications, UNMIK/Kosovo

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

- **Douglas Rasbash**, SEETO Manager, **SC Meeting Secretary**

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

- **Izet M. Bajrambašić** Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications and Transport Bosnia and Herzegovina **Chairman**
- **Edgar Thielmann**, EC DGTREN, **Co-Chairman**
- **Gjergji Tenequexhi**, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance, Albania
- **Davor Čilić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of European Integration, Croatia
- **Melaim Ademi**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance, FYRo Macedonia
- **Amna Redžepagić**, Advisor for European Integration, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Transport, Montenegro
- **Miodrag Jocić**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia
- **Gordana Lazarević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Serbia

#### **Guests and Observers –**

- Mehmed Dujso, Head of Department for Transport Infrastructure, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Joaquim Rodon Blas, Team Leader, Safege IRD, Montenegro
- Max Hennion, Institutional Expert, Safege IRD, Montenegro
- Mr. Vassilis Evmolpidis, Managing Director TRADEMCO
- Mirjana Čizmarov, Legal Adviser to SEETO

## 1. Opening by the Deputy Chairman

Deputy Chairman opened the meeting by acknowledging the success of the first Annual Meeting of Ministers. He said that the signing of the SEETO Agreement and Resolution indicated the high level of cooperation and commitment to SEETO. He thanked the Government of Macedonia and SEETO for their good organisation.

- Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Zagreb 20<sup>th</sup> September 2005)

EC had comments on the minutes and would pass these to SEETO after the meeting.

The minutes were therefore not amended and signed. The amended minutes will be circulated for signing at the next meeting.

- agenda

The EC proposed to take item 5 first and item 3 second in order of discussion.

- Substitute Member

Mr Nenad Nikolić carried a letter from the MCI Serbia that proposed him as a substitute member in the absence of the Member and Deputy Member.

- *Quorum*

The meeting was *in quorum* in accordance with item X of the Constitution and Modus Operandi of the Steering Committee.

Point of information: The SEETO Manager obtained the outstanding signatures on the Modus Operandi of the Steering Committee from UNMIKosovo and Albania. Copies of the fully signed Constitution will be circulated by SEETO.

## 2. Annual Meeting of Ministers, 10 November 2005, Skopje, Macedonia

- Resolution

All participants signed except UNMIKosovo as it required processing through Government and will be able to sign in the near future

- SEETO Agreement

Four participants signed (Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia)

Croatia stated that the whole procedure is with government and then parliament would ratify in about 1 month.

UNMIKosovo expects clearance to sign very soon.

BiH expects the Government to ratify within 1 month and advised that budget item for fiscal year 2006 had been included.

## 3. Multi- Annual Plan for the Development of the SEE Core Regional Transport Network

- Agreement of selection and weighting of criteria to be used for prioritising projects

SEETO introduced the method as coming from 16 criteria in Technical Note 1 and SC item 11. The shortlist of 8 criteria applied to some 90 projects generated the prioritised listing of projects displayed at the Annual Meeting. The listing was provisional and, following participation by members in selection and weighting of criteria, it would be revised substantially.

EC proposed to group the criteria in 4 categories and to apply to all projects irrespective of status, including those that were ongoing.

BiH emphatically stated that developmental criteria must be included; otherwise it was not worth having SEETO. That the role of SEETO was not that of prioritising only rehabilitation projects as this would be done anyway by Participants. What was important was for SEETO to include in the Plan regionally important projects that would change the economy and attract investment.

Montenegro suggested that MCA will lead to placing higher priorities for corridor projects where there is more traffic and proposed two groups: one International and one Regional.

UNMIKosovo – supported the grouping of criteria, adding that regional development and connectivity may be the most important group. Travel time is the most important criteria. Interregional criteria could be used.

SEETO advised that whatever the criteria chosen, the information provided by participants to SEETO had to relate to the selected criteria to enable evaluation to be made. An example of Motorway in corridor 5c was mentioned where practically no developmental information was given, despite developmental impact being the most important objective for the project.

Croatia proposed that one project from each country should be included in the maximum priority projects.

All agreed that all projects should be part of a National Plan.

BiH agreed that SEETO should prepare a common set of criteria.

Deputy Chairman recommended that members should copy their proposed criteria to each other.

SEETO emphasised that MCA is only a tool; it is up to negotiations of SC to select from this list the prioritised projects to form the first 5 year plan. SEETO reminded SC members that the EC is desirous of having only 30 to 40 high priority projects in the first 5-year plan, other projects may be included in subsequent plans.

#### Next Steps

Members will send criteria to SEETO by 24<sup>th</sup> November

Within 1 month SEETO will prepare a consolidated set of criteria grouped as agreed, and will circulate together with methods of measurement of criteria.

The SC will then respond to SEETO submitting weightings of criteria of those groupings.

SEETO will then evaluate projects using those criteria and develop the prioritisation.

At SC meeting April the projects that go in the 5 year plan will be selected.

- Affordability

Members will come to the next meeting prepared to apply affordability checks.

- Information

SEETO provided a general table of information requirements that included source, availability and timing to be returned to SEETO. SEETO advised members that the criteria selected had to be supported by information provided.

- Next Plan

Members agreed that there was no point in SEETO rapidly preparing another Plan as agreed at Zagreb and that the process of prioritisation should be carefully considered to ensure full support.

SC concurred that the next plan will be finalised after the Steering Committee of April 2006.

#### **4. National Coordination**

Macedonia requested that SEETO provide more support to NCs and to be more present in the participants' countries. SEETO promised to be more present in the countries, advising that for the following day meetings with Railways and Roads organisations of Macedonia were scheduled.

SEETO pointed to the resolution numbers 9 and 10 that provide the basis for NCs to be more effective and asked members to initiate actions accordingly by ensuring that NCs have authority, time and resources to do a good job.

#### **5. Creation of SEETO Working Groups**

##### Rail and Inter-modal working group

EC agreed to open the working groups to other countries and to include EC.

UNMIKosovo supported but pointed out that UNMIK railways is not UIC member and asked if the group could assist with membership. EC responded positively.

SEETO points out that CER is organising a first meeting to discuss working group formation, due December 2<sup>nd</sup>. ECMT is also meeting to discuss working group.

SEETO was directed to contact both organisations to try to ensure that ideally there is a common and coordinated working group.

BiH confirmed that ECMT was very important and should be included in the working group

Croatia suggested that the working group may concentrate on either operating or organisational matters to provide a clear agenda and not to take on too much.

BiH appreciated the need to harmonise the railways restructuring process.

Montenegro advised that they had passed the railway law. Also the railways laws have been passed in Serbia and Albania.

SEETO advised that new railways' laws are welcome but that it is the application of the laws where divergence may take place.

#### Trade and transport facilitation/soft measures working group

SEETO introduced the ToR stating that expertise in SEETO is deficient in this area at the moment.

EC may include customs unit and suggested asking the World Bank to chair the group due to their experience with TTFSE.

Members will comment to SEETO on the ToR for the working groups by 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

### **6. SEETO**

- Personnel

Secretary General - discussions took place in Skopje and negotiations are proceeding positively. The designated person is to start 1 February 2006.

SEETO advised that Mr T. Wielpütz EU expert for planning had tendered his resignation. A replacement EU expert had already been found by GOPA consultants and that approval will be sought from the EC for the replacement.

SEETO reported that new local (counterpart) planning expert will be recruited in the next period owing to the departure of the Mr. B. Borojević.

SC members required that the position to be advertised in newspapers to ensure transparency and apply correct procedures.

- Future Budget

SEETO proposed that the budget for fiscal year 2006 is provisionally based on that submitted to SC Members, included as SC item, on October 27. Allocation to be adjusted once 2006-2010 plan approved; this was accepted by the Committee.

### **7. Next meeting**

Next Meeting - Montenegro April 06 (first week) date to be fixed.

#### **17.30 Closure**

### **Minutes Approved**

Deputy Chairman

.....Date.....

Minutes Circulated to:

- Members and Deputy Members of SC
- EC DG ENLARG
- Joint Venture

First draft on 15 November 2006