

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

Third Meeting

20th October 2005

Zagreb, Croatia

Present:

Members (Voting)

- **Izet M Bajrambašić** Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications and Transport Bosnia and Herzegovina **Chairman**
- **Edgar Thielmann**, EC DGTREN, **Co-Chairman**
- **Eduard Prodani** Secretary General, Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Albania, **Deputy Chairman**
- **Mate Jurišić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Croatia
- **Florim Grajcevc**i, 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
- **Miodrag Jocić**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Capital Investments, Serbia

Deputy Members (Non Voting)

- **Jozef Zuallaert**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Transport & Telecommunications, UNMIK/Kosovo
- **Joep Boerboom**, EC DGTREN Deputy Co Chairman

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

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

Apologies for absence from

- **Gjergj Tenequexhi**, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance, Albania
- **Nikola Šego**, Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **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
- **Gordana Lazarevic**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of International Economic Relations, Serbia

Changes of Steering Committee Members

- Admission of Florim Grajcevc member for UNMIKosovo replacing Mr. Gezim Pula
- Admission of Mr. Joep Boerboom deputy member for the European Commission replacing Mr. Graeme Preston

Guest and Observer – Mr. Eduards Deksnis SEETO Contract Project Manager DG Enlargement

Draft Agenda

1. Opening by the Chairman

- The minutes of previous meeting (Sarajevo 23rd June 2005)

Changes were proposed, the revised minutes were signed and copies of the minutes distributed

- Agenda was approved without discussion

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

The question was whether to present this or a revised version for the AMM.

Kosovo questioned the value of the AMM resolution if the Plan was not submitted for adoption.

The EC regarded the resolution to be useful, irrespective of whether or not the Plan is submitted for adoption at the AMM, adding that the resolution should not be a part of the planning document.

SEETO Manager concurred adding that the intention was originally to indicate simply adoption of the Plan – had this been an outcome.

SEETO Manager advised that the MoU item 8 refers only to an annual meeting, not its agenda. Adoption of the Plan in this AMM provided a goal for SEETO and participants and also set up a procedure for the future.

Regarding the plan itself comments included.

The EC stated that investments of 4.4 billion euro (noting it was also stated as being 4.08 billion euro). Would not be realistic having in mind the limited fiscal space.

EC clarified that TINA was 1.5% of GDP for all spending in Transport Infrastructure.

The EC required that the Plan should show how the projects contribute to the Corridor approach.

The EC acknowledged the need to apply a pragmatic approach where data does not exist

EC recommended SEETO to respond to project proposals to challenge the relative regionality of the projects if not clear

SEETO Manager broadly accepted the point for attention in the next draft – adding that there can be no doubt as to the regionality of any project on the SEE Regional Core Network as it would be regional by definition. The issue was how to assess their relative regionality.

EC confirmed that projects should at least be located on the core network in order to be eligible to be included in the Plan. Projects should be prioritized and soft measures should be introduced.

EC advised to build upon REBIS study – it was almost as if the work was starting all over again.

SEETO manager compared the REBIS and SEETO list of projects advising that many REBIS projects had changed and were resubmitted.

EC recommendations and comments will be presented to SEETO.

Kosovo proposed that core network routes could be prioritised in terms of the regional importance.

Montenegro requested better mapping in the Plan.

The SEETO Manager advised that such was indicated in the diagrams used.

SEETO to seek written comments from all members

Macedonia proposed not to submit Plan to AMM

Albania proposed not to submit Plan to AMM

EC concurred that the Plan should not be submitted to the AMM

The SEETO Manager explained that the rules for including projects without feasibility studies should be clear. Prioritisation was expected by SEETO for the next 2007 – 2011 Plan when more information would become available. Since prioritisation is required for this Plan, ways and means of prioritising projects without essential information is needed. The best way forward would be for the SC to confirm an agreed set of criteria.

Chairman proposed meeting in Skopje to agree criteria for project prioritisation.
SEETO was asked to propose a set of pragmatic criteria in advance.

- Next Steps – SEETO, SC Members, Ministers
SC declined to record receipt of draft of plan requiring it to be reworked and resubmitted.
Criteria for project prioritisation will be determined at Skopje 10th November.
The SC accepted that the reworked plan would be based on pragmatic criteria.
New draft plan will be completed by 10th December 2005 by SEETO personnel – only.

3. Creation of SEETO Working Groups

The SC determined without disagreement or amendment that the following working groups would be set up:

- Rail and Inter-modal working group
- Trade and transport facilitation/Soft measures working group

Kosovo, supported by EC, proposed that the terms of reference of working groups should concentrate on concrete pragmatic outcomes and that studies were not needed.

The draft ToR for each working group is to be presented in Skopje at the next SC meeting.

4. Regional studies

The members recorded a general view that it would be better not to have more studies, but to propose a set of concrete actions, investments and procedures. If Working Groups conclude a need for studies they will propose to the SC.

5. Annual Meeting of Ministers, 10 November 2005, Skopje, Macedonia

Agenda

EC considered agenda to be good.

Subjects for Ministers speeches useful and appropriate - Croatia

EC proposed to make a presentation on TENT – which should be added

Chairman proposed to talk on progress made on implementing the MoU

SEETO will circulate new agenda in one week

Leave room for bilateral meetings

Resolution

Wording in the resolution related to the Plan are to be omitted

The resolution to be reworded by EC and sent to SEETO

SEETO Agreement

Macedonia can sign agreement

Croatia should sign agreement

BiH may get there in 2 weeks

Serbia should be able to sign agreement

Montenegro should be able to sign

SEETO Budget

SEETO Manager requested that Members set up a SEETO budget line in the 2006 budget.

SEETO Manager was requested to distribute SEETO budget as a matter of urgency as 2006 budgets were being finalised

Montenegro raised issue of whether National Coordinator could be financed from the SEETO budget. The Commission indicated that National Coordinators fees cannot be financed out of the ongoing CARDS project. SEETO Manager advised that it will be the decision of the SC to determine what the future SEETO budget supplied by the beneficiaries can be spent on

List of delegates.

Not discussed

Other Activities

Kosovo will sign the SC Constitution in Skopje

Macedonia will have an Exhibition

SEETO manager also confirmed that the intention is also to have a SEETO Stand

6. SEETO Secretary General

Interviews were held 19th October in Zagreb by the Chairman, Co-chairman and the SEETO Manager

Four candidates were interviewed, three were very good, and each was different.

The Macedonian candidate was ranked first.

Croatia supported the Macedonian candidate but needed one week to consult and will advise SEETO

Albania supported Macedonian candidate

Montenegro supported subject to consultation

Croatia and Montenegro agreed that provided there was no objection, the SEETO Manager would negotiate with the Macedonian candidate.

7. Work programme 2006

SEETO Manager introduced the SEETO Work Programme, noting that the locations of meetings were only suggestions and were not confirmed.

Studies to be removed from the programme, otherwise no other comment

EC will advise the SC regarding PPF (T)

No activity is anticipated of SEETO for PPF in 2006

EC enquired of Mr. Deksnis on progress made in the delivery of the IT equipment to the SEETO that is being procured by the EC for the SEETO office.

Mr. Deksnis advised that the process was delayed; delivery date of IT equipment remained unknown;

Reference was made to an application from the SEETO JV Consultants for derogation to procure software directly from supplier.

8. Next meeting

Skopje 10th November 2005

17.10 Closure

Minutes Approved

ChairmanDate.....

Minutes Circulated to:

- Members and Deputy Members of SC
- EC Task Manager
- Joint Venture

First draft on 26 October 2005