

Belgrade, 22 March, 2006
Ref. No: GM/NCM4

4th National Coordinators Meeting, 13/14 March, 2006, Belgrade, Serbia

Present:

National Coordinators

- Mehmed Dujso, National Coordinator, BiH
- Danijel Krakic, National Coordinator, Croatia
- Nenad Nikolic, National Coordinator, Serbia
- Afrdita Ramadani, National Coordinator, FYROM
- Rame Qupeva, National Coordinator, UNMIK Kosovo

Observers

- Kuytim Hashorva, Albania
- Robert Butler, Albania
- Snezana Mastilovic, BiH
- Drazen Antolovic, Croatia
- Mario Kraus, FYROM
- Ratko Stefanovski, FYROM
- Taip Dauti, FYROM
- Miodrag Jovic, Serbia
- Gordana Lazarevic, Serbia
- Miodrag Poledica, Serbia
- Dejan Zlatkovic, Serbia
- Ivana Kostic, Serbia
- Joep Boerboom, EC
- Eduards Deksnis, EC

SEETO Team

- Slavjanka Petrusseva, General Manager
- Douglas Rasbash, SEETO Manager
- Alexander MacDonald, Planning Expert
- Andrija Gencel, IT Manager
- Mirjana Cizmarov, Legal Advisor
- Bojan Trifunovic, Financial Assistant
- Jordana Ficovic, Administrative Assistant

Apologies for absence from

- Yllka Zaloshnja, National Coordinator, Albania
- Angelina Zivkovic, National Coordinator, Montenegro

Monday, 13 March 2006

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr. Rasbash opened the Meeting and introduced new SEETO General Manager, Mrs. Slavjanka Petrusseva and EU Planning Expert, Mr. Alexander MacDonald. Each representative introduced himself/herself.

Following this introduction, Mr. Jovic welcomed all present participants on behalf of the Government of Serbia.

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2. Progress and expectations

- EC Presentation by Mr. Deksnis
- Presentation of SEETO
 - NC Job description, presented by Mr. Douglas Rasbash
 - Basic information needs by Mr. Alexander MacDonald

Mr. Deksnis stated that EC understands the importance of the role that NCs must carry out in order to achieve cooperation of all countries in the Region. Although, he still finds it very difficult to provide financial support for them. The EC expects better coordination of National Coordinators between their ministries and more authority given. It is important to find and specify key aspects that will lead to better cooperation. Following this analysis, communication between EC and NC would be more efficient if explaining what kind of help is needed, if any. EC wanted to hear NC answers, opinions, etc, especially as there were not enough powers given during the Annual Meeting of Ministers. EC main topic of discussion was to explain that there should be some form of mechanism to convince their ministers to give them more authorities, freedom to explore and search for information.

Mr. Dujso explained that the role of NC is very important for Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is being given full support for establishing the role of National Coordinators, but it is not possible for them to work just for SEETO.

According to Mr. Nikolic, problem is in recognising the role and position of NC within the Ministry. Mr. Nikolic pointed out that he has a lot support from his colleagues in the Ministry and public enterprises, who have recognised the role of South-East Europe Transport Observatory. However, the Ministry is the one that should recognise and support the role of National Coordinator, particularly if there is a need for minister approval. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce better the role of SEETO to the Ministry. Other problems are: lack of information from SEETO, everyday duties and responsibilities that have to be assigned by SEETO.

Mr. Qupeva confirmed that NC position is getting more and more important. He has support in the Ministry, but he is still having some difficulties, especially in cooperation with Airport and Railway Department. In addition to this, the biggest problem is that Minister is not authorised to sign any document. According to him, it seems that the role of NC is on a higher level. He proposed formation of Steering Committee in each Ministry. This could help and make clearer role of NC. He also agreed that, along with regular duties, NC job should be done as additional one. Furthermore, they should have Government support, but this should be proposed by SEETO. It is good to have an organisation as SEETO is and it should be used as an umbrella organisation by all NC for sharing information and experiences and improving communication. There is also a problem in collecting information and databases. SEETO should give more time to NC and TA would be helpful.

3. Role of National Coordinators

Extract from Skopje AMM - Co-ordination

9. Welcome the appointment of the National Coordinators as day-to-day liaisons between the national administrations and the SEETO Secretariat and appreciate their added value in organising and coordinating Core Network related activities within the national administrations;
10. Will ensure that National Coordinators receive appropriate resources, time and financial support and the authority necessary to respond effectively on behalf of the Participants to elaborate and monitor the implementation of the Plan and coordinate with the SEETO secretariat;

Presentation by National Coordinators

National Coordinators prepared presentations that covered the following topics:

- Description of position of NC in the ministry/organisation chart - if possible
- Data flows/release procedures/cooperation with other units in the ministry/other ministries
- Progress in implementing AMM Resolution adopted in Skopje 10th November 2005
- Suggestions for improvement
- Time spent on SEETO activities, resources used and needed

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4. Multi-annual development plan/soft measures

- Types of Soft Measures, introduction by EC
- Progress in completing soft measures questionnaire

Following Mr. Boerboom's presentation on soft measures, some proposals were given.

Serbian representatives proposed professional education, which would be very helpful, asked for information about key experts who should be involved (economists, legal experts, engineers, etc). Serbian delegation was also concerned about ongoing projects and enquired if some small icebreaking programmes could be proposed from SEETO (e.g. road safety programme).

UNMIK proposed formation of different types of small working groups, similar to the railway working group.

FYROM delegation wanted to know if some soft projects which are not connected only with transport, e.g. connected with customers, can be included. This was approved by EC. NC suggested to SEETO to propose initial Soft Measures, but it is concluded that the NC who works in the Ministry should have better understanding of the needs in his/her own country and he/she should propose measures.

5. Use and analysis of network information

Presentation on this subject was prepared by Mr. Alexander MacDonald and it covered the following topics:

- Importance of infrastructure keeping pace with traffic demand
- Description of transport links and nodes
- Transport demand (present and future)
- Comparison of transport supply and demand
- Proposals for action
- Need to plan on a regional basis
- Planning timeframe/ Concept of rolling plans

Discussion on the rolling plan followed the presentation. The question discussed was whether there is this type of plan in the region. Croatian delegation confirmed that there is rolling plan for the railway. Serbia does not have this type of plans, they have fixed five-year plan.

Conclusion: Countries that have five year plan should deliver them to Mr. MacDonald, both transport and investment plans included.

6. Network Performance Data Questionnaires

Mr Andrija Gencel, SEETO Information Resources Manager, prepared the latest subject for the first day. It included introduction of SEETIS and development programme, their features and benefits. Mr Gencel explained that SEETIS should support all activities of SEETO related to data collecting. Collected information will be available on the Internet, to authorised users, including NC, SC members and other authorised persons. Data approved as "Public" will be available to everyone.

Presentation was followed with discussion, started with Serbian delegation raising the question of SEETO financing, even it was not the subject of discussion. They were interested if they need to submit as many as possible projects and than to be punished by giving the biggest amount of money for SEETO financing.

Conclusion beside the project database SEETO is starting to collect Infrastructure and Traffic data, the NC will develop contacts and information to provide data for the additional new questionnaires in their countries.

The question was asked what NC needed from SEETO that would help them to collect information.

For collecting information on projects FYROM delegation needs written request, authorisation within the Ministry and the letter from SEETO would be helpful, as well. Also, minister has to send request to the director of public enterprise and to ask for information. It will be useful to organise a meeting with SEETO, Ministry and representatives from relevant public enterprises.

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Bosnian delegation proposed organising seminar with the subjects involving concrete problems and information exchange.

Croatian delegation has the same procedure as FYROM, but they have lack of information from public enterprises.

Serbian delegation proposed a meeting with all relevant participants in the process of collecting information to explain what kind of benefits Serbia can use. With regards to this, we should use opportunity that SEETO is located in Belgrade. The biggest problem is the coordination with public enterprises and lack of information on the Core network.

Tuesday, 14 March 2006, (10:00-14:00)

7. Operation and Procedures of SEETIS Programmes Versions 1 and 2

The second day started with Mr Gencel's presentation on the following topics:

- Introducing the new Infrastructure and traffic questionnaires
- Working with questionnaires, discussing use cases on examples provided the NC
- Procedures about Collecting Infrastructure and Traffic data and identifying problems.
- Procedures about submitting and updating Infrastructure and Traffic data
- SEETO TIS v1 functionality, storing project, infrastructure and traffic data, reporting and mapping.
- Project Infrastructure and traffic data in SEETO TIS v1
- SEETO TIS v1
- Mapping and reporting demonstration with GIS

After the presentation National Coordinators were given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss with Mr. Gencel about improvements.

UNMIK made comment that initiative of SEETO for data collecting is good way to force NC to work more intensively. Serbia agreed with this, especially as they noticed that a lot of data is missing. FYROM confirmed that this could be a good guide.

Croatia asked if it was necessary to collect data again as those data already exist. Mr. Douglas confirmed that job will be done twice, but they have to deliver information. SEETO submitted procedure and if it was agreed that if National Coordinators thought that anything should have been changed, they could submit proposals in a written form.

Conclusion: Comments on questionnaires should be submitted in one month (until 14 April, 2006). SEETO is capable and ready to process infrastructure, traffic, forecast and other relevant data from other database exports if available.

8. Next steps

- Planning SEETO experts visit in March/April
- Training needs of NC and other local experts

Bosnia proposed SEETO experts visit to Sarajevo in April, which will, in their opinion, significantly improve communication.

Albania confirmed that visit of experts would be helpful, but not before May. During that period, Albania should nominate new National Coordinator.

UNMIK Kosovo stated it will be glad to welcome experts in May.

FYROM delegation has to consult colleagues from public enterprises, but it would be good to have experts there. Especially because even after Annual Meeting of Ministers they still do not know about SEETO and the role of NC. SEETO experts should visit them in May.

Serbia confirmed that it would be useful to organise training.

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Conclusion: Experts visits should be organised. As Montenegro did not have representatives present on this meeting, SEETO should contact them to check their availability.

- Programme for completion of MAP 2006-2010
- Programme for completion of MAP 2007-2011

Multi Annual Plan 2006-2010 will be distributed by SEETO next week for comments. It will include priority projects.

Bosnia made comments on the list of projects that they wanted to discuss.

Serbia would like to submit more projects that were already financed.

SEETO almost finished MAP and it included already submitted projects. Other projects should be submitted, but only for the Plan 2007-2011.

Serbian delegation initiated discussion about the projects that already had financial support and had been submitted for the MAP. All NC were interested in this discussion due to SEETO financing which is based on the number and the value of submitted projects, some of which had already had financial backup.

Having considered MAP is not a subject for comment, but only for information purposes SEETO proposed comments to be sent after they have received document and according to the following procedure: After SEETO distribute MAP, NC should deliver comments to the Steering Committee members, not directly to SEETO. SC Members are persons who should coordinate with SEETO and send comments on MAP.

As project submitting is very important for all countries in the region, this should become everyday job and it is in their interest to supply project data that comply with criteria. SEETO will assist them to choose and collect better projects and present them at the most appropriate way. In regards to MAP 2007-2011 there should be more information than for the previous one. More information for this process they can be found in the Technical Note V3. Difference between those two documents is in the amount of information – for the MAP 2006-2010 minimum information was a sufficient amount. It is not enough for the next Plan. Nevertheless, methodology used in both plans is the same.

- Next NC meeting will be held in Sarajevo, 15 June, 2006. Details to be agreed.

EC expressed thanks for well-organised meeting and gave final comments on the NC authorities. They decided to ask SC members to react upon this issue and take responsibility for giving more power to NC. Furthermore, they will invite NCs for better cooperation.