

Terms of Reference / Mandate

The Steering Committee sets up an ad-hoc Working Group on railway and inter-modal policy on a temporary basis according to paragraph 9 of the Memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the development of the South East Europe Core Regional Transport Network (SEETO).

The WG will deal with the administrative and regulatory procedures necessary to foster the development of a European railway area, leaving discussions on investment prospects to the Steering Committee. While the ultimate aim is to promote the implementation of the EU railway acquis in the SEETO region, the Working Group will more specifically take stock of, analyse and give its opinion to the Steering Committee on some or all of the following issues:

1. Inventory of rail reforms
2. Reviewing participants' strategies for reform, including regulatory and policy change with regards to
 - open access to infrastructure
 - network statements
 - institutional settings (regulatory bodies and safety authorities)
 - intermodality
3. OTIF rules for international traffic and compatibility of cross-border agreements with EU legislation and the EU rail market opening approach
4. Recommend measures to be taken to ensure regional integration and harmonisation of reforms

Coordination and Cooperation: The Working Group will report to the Steering Committee and coordinate its activities with those of the Steering Committee and of other Working Groups set up under this MoU.

The Working Group will ensure that work carried out in other exercises (such as the task force on railways of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) and by the working group on South-East Europe set up under the auspices of the Community of European Railways (CER)) is properly coordinated with its own activities.

Participation: Steering Committee delegated experts including European Commission/DG TREN. The Working Group may on a case by case invite external experts and stakeholders, like representatives/experts from neighbouring countries, international financial institutions, corridor secretariats, regional railways, professional associations etc.

Meetings: 2-4 per year

Chair: EU Commission/DG TREN

Secretariat: SEETO
South East European Transport Observatory