



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT
Unit E2 Rail Transport and Intermodality
The Head of Unit

Brussels, 1 August 2008
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Working Group
Railways and Intermodality

Subject: Invitation to the SEETO working group railway and intermodality

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to invite you to the next meeting of railway and intermodality working group to be held **in Zagreb on 25 September 2008**.

The draft minutes of our last meeting, which we should adopt at the next meeting, can be downloaded from the SEETO secretariat's web site. The same holds for the national time tables.

Some delegates at the Steering Group suggested to put more detail in the draft time table, but minutes do not inform what they meant. Please send your suggestions to the chairman by 15 September 2008.

I regret that interpretation will not be provided. The SEETO secretariat provides the organisation of the meeting, including reimbursement of delegates of participants of the MoU, where possible. Further details should be verified with the secretariat at the contact provided on the next page.

Find enclosed a draft agenda, which also foresees a short intervention from all delegates on the state of rail reform in the SEETO states. Interventions should relate to the mandate of the working group (e.g. recent development regarding rail reform, rail market development, competition). By contrast, the map of the core network and investments are out of scope and should not be raised here. Please inform as soon as possible, if you wish an agenda item to be added, or if, as a speaker, your presentation cannot be made.

Yours sincerely,

Maurizio Castelletti

Enclosures: terms of reference, draft agenda,

All participants will have organized transfer from the airport to the hotel and vs.

Registration and further information can be obtained from SEETO

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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

Draft Agenda

Item no	Hour		
	9.00	Welcome and recent developments	EU Commission
		Adoption of the minutes of previous meeting	Delegates
		Adoption of the agenda	Delegates
		Debriefing of Steering Committee meeting of July 2008	SEETO secretariat
		Conclusions on study of PSO in FYR Macedonia as presented at April meeting	Delegates
		Round table on state of rail reform in the SEETO signatory states and rail market monitoring, incl. updates of the 1 st interim report	Round table
		Time table for implementation according to addendum item 5.	Delegates
	12.30 – 14.00	Lunch	
		Technical Assistance project in FYR Macedonia on track access charges	Consultant
		Setting track access charges in a situation of backlogs: experience in SE Europe	Consultants
	17.30	Other business, incl. next meeting (date, host and focus topics)	Delegates
	18.00	Close	