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

### 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Rijeka, Croatia, October

Present:

#### SC Members (Voting)

- **Kujtim Hashorva**, Director of Road Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Albania - **Chairman**
- **Izet M. Bajrambašić** Assistant Minister, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mate Jurišić**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Croatia
- **Mate Gjorgjievski**, Head of Unit, Secretariat for European Affairs, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- **Miodrag Jocić**, Chef Supervisor, P.E. Roads of Serbia, Serbia
- **Elenor Bajraktari**, Economic Policy Office, EU Pillar, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99
- **Jonathan Scheele**, Director Trans-European Transport Networks, DG TREN, European Commission

#### SC Deputy Members (Non Voting)

- **Darko Spiroski**, Head of Department for European Union, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- **Blerand Stavileci**, Political Adviser, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99
- **Francois Begeot**, Policy Officer, DG TREN, European Commission - **Deputy Co-Chairman**

#### SEETO Permanent Secretariat

- **Slavjanka Petruševa**, General Manager
- **Nenad Nikolić**, Transport Planning Manager
- **Mirjana Bugarinović**, Railway Expert
- **Jordana Fićović**, Financial and Administrative Assistant
- **Mirjana Milanović**, Financial and Administrative Assistant

#### Guests and Observers

- **Nereida Hoxha**, Technical Assistance, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Albania
- **Zana Joca** Chief Expert in the Project Management and Integration Directorate, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, Albania
- **Dijana Vlasisavljevic**, Minister Advisor, Ministry of Infrastructure, Serbia
- **Rame Qupeva**, Director of Road Infrastructure Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99

#### Apologies for absence from

- **Altin Ndroqi**, Director of Foreign Relation and Public Information, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, Albania
- **Nikola Šego**, Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Nataša Mikuš**, Deputy State Secretary, Central State Office for Development Strategy and Coordination of EU Funds, Croatia
- **Angelina Živković**, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Telecommunications, Montenegro, - **Deputy Chairman**
- **Amna Redžepagić**, Advisor for European Integration, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Telecommunications, Montenegro
- **Gordana Lazarević**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Finance, Serbia

*The presentations and other background documents referred to in these minutes were sent in advance and hard copies were distributed to all participants.*

**Address by Chairman – Mr. Kujtim Hashorva** - SEETO SC Chairman opened 17<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting, welcomed participants and gave floor to Mr. Jonathan Scheele.

**Address by Co-Chairman – Mr. Jonathan Scheele** – Thanking to Mr. Jurisic for hosting SC in Rijeka, Mr. Scheele presented himself, reminded that first time he met with SC Members on 2<sup>nd</sup> AMM in Brussels and noticed that since than good spirit has been developed between SC Members as well as good cooperation between SEETO Participants. This is bringing up to Core Network Development and, on indirect way, could help to secure financial assets. He thanked to SEETO Participants and SEETO Secretariat for all work that has been done.

Out of this Agenda item, Mr. Scheele gave his opinion on MAP 2009-2013. He stressed real satisfaction with MAP 2009-2013. It is very good document with recognizable movement from previous MAP. However, there is a space for additional improvement; but generally, MAP is recognized as very useful instrument for the Region.

Mr. Scheele also stressed news from railway sector – IPA will finance work of Facilitator on Corridor X – Elio Catania will be Facilitator.

Apart from SC Meeting, Mr. Scheele stressed the opportunity to be in Croatia for Treaty Negotiations and to have bilateral meetings. This could apply in each SEETO Participant. European Commission delegation visited Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99. In next weeks they will visit Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania; beginning of November they will visit Serbia. The Commission expectations are to get better picture of road transport sector and increasing of road transport traffic. This will be also opportunity to discuss all modes of transport.

European Commission has a plan to conclude signing until the end of next year.

TEN-T Days (October 14-15, 2008) – TEN-T Days will be launched because of general policy on various funding in period 2014-2020; it will show which priorities EU has, improvement of TEN-T database (similar that SEETO have with SEETIS). Publishing of Green Paper is very important and the main issue of TEN-T Days is to collect as many ideas as possible to be included in Green Paper.

Under AOB Mr. Scheele proposed the Commission to host the first SC Meeting in 2009.

#### **Item 1: Administrative matters**

- Adopting of Agenda – Agenda was adopted without changes
- Adopting of Minutes from SC15 - Comments were received in advance from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro and included in latest version of the document. Beside this, Mr. Bajrambasic explained his intervention – SEETO Team is not good expression, it could be SEETO Permanent Secretariat Staff. He also asked that name of each person quoted should be stated in minutes because this will stress individual obligations. Mr. Bajrambasic had additional comment on Task Force of the Project.

*Conclusion: Minutes were adopted and signed with stated additional comments.*

#### **Item 2: Annual Ministerial Meeting**

Ms. Petrusheva presented plan for the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting; she reminded that Agenda and Invitation letter were sent couple months ago and that Draft Resolution was distributed for comments. Beside the Resolution, it is expected that ministers will sign RWG Time Table.

Following comments were stated:

- Mr. Jovic asked to be careful about names of speakers and organizations; especially when it is about Kosovo under UNSCR1244 – Mr. Johan van Lamoen should take floor and should introduce Mr. Limaj. He also stressed importance to include Final Report of HLG from December 2005 in the Resolution (Report from Mrs. Loyola de Palacio) as a document important for extension on TEN-T network to the neighboring countries.
- Mr. Scheele proposed to delete names of ministers in the Agenda and that Item 2 of the Resolution should be considered as very important items of Resolution.
- Mr. Bajrambasic stressed importance to reorganize order of items in the Resolution – items 1, 5 and 10 are the most important one and should be stated as three important one. On the first page of the Resolution, he proposed to delete bullet 1 regarding TIRS Study, bullet which consider RWG, as well as bullets which apply to SEETO establishment and SEETO Agreement.

*Conclusion: Following was agreed:*

- *Venue and prices for Hotel Splendid are adopted*

- *Each SEETO Participant will send list of delegates*
- *SEETO Secretariat will prepare revised and redrafted Resolution according to comments from this meeting*
- *Item 10 of the Resolution will be changed as following: "Having regard to meetings held in the framework of the Railway Working Group, and decision adopted by Steering Committee"*
- *Steering Committee Meeting will be held day before 4<sup>th</sup> AMM*
- *During next weeks SC Members should inform SEETO Secretariat if they support Donor Conference or PPP Networking Village to be organized after 4<sup>th</sup> AMM. Written comments and proposals should be sent during next week and SEETO Secretariat will take further organizational steps.*

### **Item 3: Time Table for Implementation of Addendum to the MoU**

Mr. Jost presented what was discussed on 7<sup>th</sup> RWG Meeting. Regarding Summary Timetable he informed that it was updated on basis of information received from RWG Members. He also presented changes made since previous Timetable and stressed one open item that should be discussed between SC Members – Does Timetable should include table of information on national level, regional level or both. Mr. Jost stressed importance to have final decision today in order to prepare document for the 4<sup>th</sup> AMM.

Mr. Bajrambasic stressed importance to include column of information on Regional level and that Timetable should be attached to the Resolution signed by ministers.

Ms. Petrusseva explained procedure about future organization of RWG Meetings and ask for necessity of additional RWG in November. As a Summary time table is adopted chairman of RWG Mr. Jost thanked for offer and stated that additional RWG in November is not needed.

*Conclusion: Adopted Summary Timetable will include both information on national and regional level and it will be attached as an Annex to the 4<sup>th</sup> AMM Resolution. SEETO Secretariat will ask for confirmation from Montenegro delegates who didn't participate on this SC Meeting.*

### **Item 4: Core Network Modification**

Reminding on history of the Core Network, Mr. Nikolic presented Document for the Core Network Modification, types of modification – three categories adopted on 12<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting as well as indicative procedure adopted on the same SC Meeting. He stressed that this is procedure that should be followed and reminded which proposals were submitted by Participants before 12<sup>th</sup> SC.

Ms. Petrusseva asked SC Members to submit additional proposals if there is any and reminded that there is announcement for the Route Albania - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ohrid Airport.

Discussion raised different comments and proposals:

- Chairman stressed new connection between Tirana and Skopje which is included in Albanian Priority Programm and will have good influence on Corridor VIII. Additionally, he stressed extensions with Greece and concession proposals for two parts on the Core network - Croatian company "Konstruktor" for Rogozin – Milot and offer from Italian company for Dures – Tirana – Elbasan
- Mr. Bajrambasic stressed status regarding railway – it is very good and has to be extended. He confirmed that railway line Ploce-Brcko has been done thanking to the Commission. In June 2008 MoU was signed between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro related to railway line Capljina – Niksic. It is narrow gage railway line which will be reconstructed into normal gage line (until 2012 Contract on Work should be concluded. At this stage, documentation is in preparation phase. All proposals and documents will be submitted in written form to SEETO Secretariat.
- Mr. Jovic stressed expectation for support from Bosnia and Herzegovina for Pojate – Cacak (E761) and proposed to organize bilateral meetings. Mr. Bajrambasic added that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia should sign Memorandum before submitting information to SEETO.
- Mr. Scheele reminded that Core Network Modification is recognized as the most important goal of the Region. E routes have been very important, but not all of them have regional priority and all Participants should be careful when submitting proposals for CN Modification which will be base for future TEN-T Network. Good example could be future TEN-T in Croatia.

Categories from the document on Core Network Modification were discussed and Participants are encouraged to submit their proposals.

*Conclusion: Participants agreed to submit their proposals until end 2008.*

#### **Item 5: MAP 2009-2013 Presentation of Participants Comments**

Ms. Bugarinovic presented comments received from SC Members, she thanked to Mr. Begeot for daily communication and for received remarks. Comments followed:

- Mr. Spiroski added information about construction of bridges on Corridor VIII - Project is in 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, Turkish company CESAS is in charge. Mr. Gjorgjievski explained comments submitted in advance and informed about latest news – they started work on Corridor X, section Kumanovo – Serbian border; work has start on Corridor VIII section - Skopje bypass
- Mr. Begeot confirmed satisfaction with MAP 2009-2013, still there is a space for improvement such as additional chapter with information what is latest on the Core Network. He proposed to add comparative maps for road and rail on going projects which will show when situation is improving on the network. This could be also used for promotion of the Core Network improvement. He stressed data for passengers in ports and issue of comparing which should be solved by SEETO Secretariat. However, we could face with different statistic difficulties such as data harmonization, detailed data. Beginning of the Document is a bit sharp and Mr. Begeot proposed to add progress that was made from the 1<sup>st</sup> MAP. Mr. Scheele agreed with those proposals, stressing importance of comparing data on ports where we have to be careful to compare the same objects.
- Mr. Hashorva stressed coordination on Road Network on Corridor VIII, low level of traffic exchange in the Region, but gave opinion that all problems could be solved and traffic could be improved if we solve problems on border crossing and visa issue. He proposed implementation of TIR measures.
- Mr. Bajrambasic informed about latest news in Bosnia and Herzegovina such as rehabilitation of the Rail Network (EIB and EBRD); Motorway on Corridor Vc (SEETO process was very helpful); By Pass Mostar (EIB); Foca – Hum (connection with Montenegro); Project for Sava River; Port of Brcko (intermodal transport which is covering Ploce-Brcko). Mr. Bajrambasic also informed that Transport Policy and Strategy is not adopted yet, there is a procedural problem and Document has to be adopted by Parliament.

*Conclusion: Additional comments for MAP 2009-2013 should be submitted within next two weeks in order to prepare final document.*

#### **Item 6: 8<sup>th</sup> National Coordinators Meeting**

Mr. Nikolic presented what was discussed during the Meeting, which conclusions and agreement were made and informed that special attention was given to Secondment. He asked support to organize training for National Coordinators and Ms. Petruseva explained that training relate to SEETIS.

Mr. Hashorva thanked to Mr. Nikolic for detailed information and informed that process of data collection in Albania is improved.

Mr. Begeot confirmed that TAIEX is going to support workshop in 2009 and asked SEETO Secretariat to be very detailed and careful in organization of the workshop. He gave some information on soft measure for data harmonization and explained situation regarding the Project and Inception Report.

Mr. Bajrambasic confirmed full support from Bosnia and Herzegovina National Coordinator.

Mr. Gjorgjievski stressed support for TAIEX Workshop and agreed that NCs and SEETO Secretariat has to be very careful because workshop has to be prepared on high level.

#### **Item 7: MAP 2009-2013 – Presentation by Participants**

Mr. Hashorva stressed civil aviation and Corridor VIII as very important, asked for correction in MAP (Corridor VIII starts from Dures, not from Tirana); he presented Study on Railway section which will be financed by Italians and gave information on existing Core Network in Albania, pointing situation on Milot – Morine and Corridor VIII (East – West and North – South). Chairman informed about roads which are under construction and gave proposals for Central-South Corridor. Shkoder – Hani Hotiti is under tendering procedure.

Mr. Gjorgjievski was interested in negotiations between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Mr. Hashorva explained that those are bilateral discussions on Corridor VIII started in order to secure shorter distance between Skopje and Tirana. Discussions were between Ministries of Transport of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Mr. Gjorgjievski informed that all information was stated yesterday and after the Meeting all comments will be submitted in written form to the SEETO Secretariat. However, he stressed continuation of Railway Reforms, but also problems on railway connections with Greece. Mr. Begeot confirmed that the Commission was informed about difficulties between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece and that they will react because these problems could have bad influence on Treaty Negotiations.

Mr. Begeot noticed several consistencies with MAP 2009-2013 which should be changed. He stressed importance of Corridor X and regarding that confirmed information received for railway link Skopje – Sofia.

Mr. Bajrambasic stated that yesterday he already stressed all important information.

Mr. Jurisic informed that regarding railways funds for IPA pre accession will include Zagreb Interchange. There is a plan for reconstruction of Zagreb – Dugo Selo – Okucani. Decision of the Government is to have reconstruction of Corridor Vb – Rijeka – Hungarian border. Mr. Jurisic confirmed that reconstruction of 2 airports will stay in MAP and informed that Croatia solved problems on Corridor X and strength Corridor Vb because it will have good influence on Croatian economy.

*Conclusion: Additional comments for MAP 2009-2013 should be submitted within next two weeks in order to prepare final document.*

#### Item 8: SEETO Budget

Ms. Petrusseva presented material distributed for this Agenda item and explained that SEETO Audit was finished just week ago. Draft report from Auditors was distributed to all participants.

Mr. Bajrambasic proposed good preparation of next SC Meeting when SEETO Secretariat will prepare detailed Working Plan for the Secretariat, National Coordinators and Steering Committee Members and detailed Budget for 2009.

Mr. Begeot congratulated to the Secretariat for achieving good comments from Auditors and agreed with proposal given by Mr. Bajrambasic.

*Conclusion: Day after Treaty Negotiations, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting will be organized in Brussels. Detailed Transitional Budget Report will be prepared together with Budget Report on seven months for 2008 plus assessment costs until end of December 2008. Action Plan for 2009 will be prepared and presented on 19<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting which will be held in Becici, Montenegro.*

#### Item 9: AOB

1. Time table of future activities – it is agreed to distribute information about Road Safety, IT and CER Conferences; 18<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Brussels
2. Treaty Negotiations – Mr. Begeot informed that Meeting will last during whole day; he asked for urgent information about delegates (costs for three delegates per Participant will be covered); Transport Attaché will be present as an observer; working language will be English; 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the Treaty will be sent week before the Meeting; transport modes that will be covered are road, rail, inland waterway, aviation is not covered; there will be discussion on procurement, environment and border crossing; invitation will be sent during next week and for this the Commission would like to have name of focal person in each Participant
3. Central European Initiative Project – Ms. Petrusseva informed about the Project, material was distributed and she asked SC Members for approval to apply for the Project. – Agreed
4. Regarding Working Package 6, Ms. Petrusseva explained the whole procedure regarding financial details and database. – Adopted

#### Minutes Approved

Chairman .....

Date .....