



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

29 JAN. 2009

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Working Group
Railways and Intermodality, SEETO
secretariat, CER, ETF, World Bank
and Speakers

Subject: Invitation to the SEETO working group railway and intermodality

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to invite you to the next meeting of the railway and intermodality working group to be held **in Belgrade between Thursday, 26 February, 2:30 PM, and Friday, 27 February 2009, 1:00 PM**. This year's meetings of the railway working group will be held back-to-back with and in the same venue as project workshops organised by a technical assistance project¹.

I regret that interpretation will not be provided. The project management provides the organisation of the meeting, including reimbursement of delegates of participants of the Memorandum of Understanding, where possible. Further questions on travel and venue should be verified in direct contact with the project leader, Mr Vassilis Evmolpidis at vevmolpidis@gmail.com.

I apologise for possible mistakes in the distribution list and ask SEETO to forward this invitation to any members that by error have not been included therein.

Find enclosed as annex 2 a draft annotated agenda, which also foresees a short intervention from all delegates on the state of their rail reform. Interventions should relate to the mandate of the working group (e.g. recent development regarding rail reform, rail market development, competition), which is attached as annex 1. By contrast, the map of the core network and investments are out of scope and should not be raised here. Please inform Mr. Frank Jost (frank.jost@ec.europa.eu) as soon as possible, if you wish an agenda item to be added.

Yours sincerely,

Maurizio Castelletti

¹ Support to Implementing Measures for the SEE Core Regional Transport Network MAP 2008-2012, financed by CARDS 2006

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