

Dear Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, on behalf of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Macedonia I would like to thank you for the given opportunity to address you and to present in front of you the stands of the Republic of Macedonia in the area of the traffic safety and the efforts undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in the process of approximation of the Macedonian standards to the EU and world standards in this field, as well as the actual projects for improvement of the road infrastructure along Corridor 8, that along with the conclusions of the last Ministerial Conference held in Naples, dedicated to the Trans-European Corridors, is one of the priorities of EU and the region.

In regards with the improvements of the road traffic safety, Republic of Macedonia has shown significant development, particularly with the adoption of the Strategy for road traffic safety improvement 2009-2014, whose main goal was to decrease the number of casualties in the traffic accidents by 50% and no children casualties by 2014.

Furthermore, a Coordinative Body was established for road traffic safety in Republic of Macedonia that shall monitor the implementation of the National Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia for improving of the road traffic safety;

shall coordinate the preparation of the Action Plan for the implementation of the above mentioned National Strategy with the necessary funds for its realization.

The application of the adopted National strategy for road traffic safety improvement shall contribute to saving 200 Million Euros, which can be achieved by reducing the number of injured people, decreasing the expenses for medical treatments for the injured and this shall consequently result into decreased costs for material damage, decreased damaged caused to the roads and to the road infrastructure as well as indirect savings of 300 Million Euros in the area of environmental protection and savings in the social sphere.

The implementation of the adopted National Strategy shall be beneficial not only for the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, but also for the Republic of Macedonia as a candidate country for EU membership, thus placing her closer to the EU integration.

European Corridor VIII

The European Corridor VIII extends through South-Eastern Europe, linking the Adriatic with the Black Sea, where transport infrastructure is relatively on a low level as compared to European standards. The Corridor is a multi-modal transport system on the south-east axis including sea and river ports, airports, multi-modal ports, roads and railways, with a total length of about 1270 km

railways and about 960 km roads.

In regards to the future, this corridor is an important common priority of all countries of the region and in particular the highway that connects the Black Sea with Varna / Burgas, Sofia, Skopje to Bari in Italy, i.e. with the Adriatic Sea.

In Republic of Macedonia, Corridor VIII extends from the East to the West part of the national territory and in total length of around 304 km. From the aspect of the road infrastructure along the Corridor, only approximately 37% of the total length is on a level of standard modern highways, among which are the following sections: Skopje-Tetovo-Gostivar, Skopje by-pass and Tetovo as well as Kumanovo-Skopje.

The Skopje by-pass, that was put into use in August this year is of 26,7 km length and has four lines, each with width of 27,5m. The by-pass is built in line with all European standards, including noise walls, with maximum speed of 120km/h. The total investment for the by-pass is approximately 135 Million Euros.

A large number of sections should be constructed to a level of highway, pursuant to the basic European standards, among which are the following sections: Gostivar-Gorna Gjanovica, Trebenishte-Ohrid, Romanovce-Deve Bair, Gostivar-Kjafasan etc.

The Project: "Awarding concession for performing the activities related to constriction, reconstruction, maintenance, pay-toll and operation on part of the state roads in Republic of Macedonia" is an excellent opportunity for development and modernization of the road infrastructure, improving the level of the roads, thus providing greater security and leading Macedonia one step closer to the EU integration.

In August 2008, 48 companies showed interest at the preliminary expression of interest.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia decided that the Project for concession of roads with pay-toll should be divided into two packages (Package 1- East concession with length of 138km) and (Package 2- West Concession with length of 141km) along the pan-European Corridor 8 on a national territory.

Package 1 consists of three new roads that are linked with the existing system of pay-toll highways in order to establish an integrated system throughout the country, while Package 2 consists of two new roads. The goal of the Government is to expand the current network by giving these 5 new road sections part of the two packages under concession in order to serve the main developing areas in the country and to connect with the highway systems in the neighbouring European countries.

The concept of the network of highways with pay toll is to provide a series of highways with controlled access and high quality and standards that can serve for long-distance trips in the national and international traffic. All this interchanges shall be designed with connections with the regional primary road system and shall not serve only the local short-distance trips.

The period for construction of the road sections from Package 1 and 2 respectively, is 8 years from the day of signing the Concession Agreement, while the Concession period is 35 years of the day of signing the Concession Agreement.

The value of the concession Package 1 is 434 Million Euros, while the value of the Concession Package 2 is 558 Million Euro.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia last month has published the Public Announcement for submission requests for participation in the participation of the procedure for awarding concession for activities for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, pay-toll and usage of part of the state roads in Republic of Macedonia (pre-qualification procedure) for Package 1 and Package 2, and this phase lasts for 63 days as from the day it was published, pursuant to the relevant effective Laws.

Dear all,

The Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Macedonia, apart from the intensive activities in line with the harmonization of the national legislation with the EU acquis, undertakes series of activities in order to improve the condition of the road infrastructure and road transport safety.

The Road transport safety, both on national and regional level, has to be improved and this is one of the priority problems to be solved in EU. All countries, both individually and by strengthening the mutual cooperation, should undertake immediate measures for improvement of the road safety, such as the implementation of the traffic regulation, raising the awareness of people for safe participation in the traffic and greater professionalism while taking part in the traffic.

Thank you for your attention.