

SEE Transport Ministers Sign Deal For Development of Rail Network

TIRANA – Albania hosted on Tuesday the third annual ministerial meeting for the development of the South-East Europe (SEE) core regional transport network.

The meeting, attended by the European Commission, the Transport Ministers or Deputy Ministers of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo, Slovenia as the future Presidency of the EU and the international financing institutions (World Bank, EIB and EBRD), aimed to promote regional coopera-

tion in developing the transport networks, contributing to the regional integration of the partners.

The high-level participants signed a political resolution as well as an addendum to the existing agreement for the creation of a SEE rail transport area.

At the opening, Albania's Premier Sali Berisha emphasised that modern economies cannot generate wealth and employment without highly efficient transport system.

Zoltan Kazatsay, Deputy Director General for Transport,

stressed the importance of closer cooperation, declaring that "the development of an adequate and reliable transport network is a precondition for any region's economic progress and social integration. Furthermore, by supporting the deployment of the core transport network in South-East Europe, we will also benefit from the extension of the European market and from the more harmonious development of our entire continent".

The EC's Delegation to Tirana said in a statement this regional



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cooperation will have the effect not only of promoting the technical development of the transport networks but also of facilitating border crossings. It will cover the rail networks, the road sector, inland waterway transport, and ports and airports.

The signature of the

addendum concerning the development of the SEE rail transport area is an important step forward for the revival of this sector, concentrating, more particularly, on improving rail market access, on opening the national market, on facilitating border crossings and on ensuring a high

level of technical interoperability between the partners, according to the statement.

The resolution signed Tuesday reinforces the political commitment of the participants at regional level, seeking to develop sustainable transport infrastructures.