

Development of the South East Europe Core Regional Transport Network

Annual Meeting of Ministers

Skopje

10<sup>th</sup> November 2005

**RESOLUTION**

*The signatories,*

- having regard to the EC strategy paper *Transport and Energy infrastructure in South East Europe* (European Commission, 2001), the *Transport Infrastructure Regional Study* (TIRS, 2002) and the *Regional Balkans Infrastructure Study* (REBIS, 2003),
  - having regard to the Memorandum of understanding on the development of the South east Europe Core Regional Transport Network, signed in Luxembourg on 11 June 2004 by the signatories, hereafter to be called the Participants,
  - having regard to the establishment of the South East Europe Transport Observatory, hereinafter called SEETO,
  - having regard to the South East Europe Core Network Development Steering Committee meetings in Tirana (April 2005), Sarajevo (June 2005) and Zagreb (October 2005),
  - having regard to the Regional Transport Planning Workshop organised by SEETO in Belgrade, September 2005,
- A. whereas a well functioning transport sector is a prerequisite to the economic development and the integration of the region;
- B. whereas the countries of the region need an effective coordinating mechanism to address jointly the need for adequate and sustainable regional transport infrastructure, as well as operational and regulatory issues of regional importance;
- C. whereas the large number of projects and measures in preparation and the limited fiscal space requires a clear prioritization of projects taking into account the regional importance of a project or measure as an important factor;

*South East Europe Core Transport Network Development Plan 2006 to 2010*

1. Welcome the open, constructive and cooperative approach of the members of the Steering Committee, the National Coordinators, the experts involved and the SEETO Secretariat in the work already carried out to prepare the first South East Europe Core Transport Network Development Plan;

2. Acknowledge the value of the already collected up-to-date information on individual projects and project proposals, but also notes that several crucial data are still lacking; urges the Participants to address this problem;
3. Call upon the Participants to select a limited number of priority projects and measures of regional interest, on the basis of criteria provided by the MoU and the Steering Committee and taking into account advice and suggestions of international financial institutions and stakeholders;
4. Calls upon the Participants to put a strong emphasis in the Plan on measures such as harmonization and compatibility of technical standards, alleviation of institutional weaknesses, including issues related to monitoring and maintenance capacities and budget;
5. Call upon the Participants to present in the Plan a clear timetable that indicates which concrete steps have to be taken and in which order;
6. Expect the Steering Committee meeting at its next meeting to discuss and, if appropriate, approve a Plan that takes into account the abovementioned points;
7. Will provide the Steering Committee with all the political support needed to reach this goal;

#### *Exchange of information*

8. Are committed to continue to supply information to SEETO concerning the development of the status of projects and actions included in the Plan, as well as information on traffic volumes and the condition of the transport network, to share this information with the Participants, in order to improve the quality of the actions taken;

#### *Co-ordination*

9. Welcome the appointment of the National Coordinators as day-to-day liaisons between the national administrations and the SEETO Secretariat and appreciate their added value in organising and coordinating Core Network related activities within the national administrations;
10. Will ensure that National Coordinators receive appropriate resources, time and the authority necessary to respond effectively on behalf of the Participants to elaborate and monitor the implementation of the Plan and coordinate with the SEETO secretariat;

#### *Working Groups*

11. Welcome the decision of the Steering Committee to establish, in accordance with Article 9 of the Memorandum of Understanding, working groups on rail and on trade and transport facilitation/soft measures;
12. Expect these working groups to deliver concrete advice and results to the Steering Committee;
13. Provide support through the nomination of experts to these working groups;

#### *Involvement of neighbouring countries and social and economical partners*

14. Underline the importance of exchange of information and coordination with neighbouring countries and support the inclusion of representatives of neighbouring countries in the working groups;

15. Encourage the Steering Committee to continue to involve stakeholders in its work;

*Sustainability of the project*

16. Welcome the agreement of the beneficiaries on the future financing of SEETO as an important step to ensure the sustainability of the project;

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Done in Skopje, on 10 November 2005



**The Minister of Transport and Telecommunications**

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**(signed)**

**Mr. Luzim BASHA**



**The Minister of Transport and Communication**

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**(signed)**

**Mr. Branko DOKIC**



**The Minister of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development**

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**(signed)**

**Mr. Bozidar KALMETA**



**The Minister of Capital Investments**

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**(signed)**

**Mr. Velimir ILIC**



**The Minister of Maritime Affairs and Transport**

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**(signed)**

**Mr. Andrija LOMPAR**



**The Minister of Transport and Communications**

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**(signed)**

**Mr. Xhemali Mehazi**



**The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo acting for the Provisional Institutions of Self Government**

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**Mr. Johan van Lamoen**



**European Commission**

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**(signed)**

**Mr. Edgar THIELMANN**