

**Sixth Annual Meeting of Ministers
on the Development of the South East Europe
Core Regional Transport Network**

“Common problems – Shared solutions”

December 01st, 2010, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Sarajevo, December 01st, 2010 - South East European Transport Observatory (SEETO) and the Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina are hosting the 6th Annual Meeting of Ministers for development of the Core Regional Transport Network.

The Meeting is attended by high level delegations from the Transport and Infrastructure Ministries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99), the European Commission, RCC, various transport related institutions and the International Financing Institutions. Aiming at promotion of regional cooperation in developing the Core Regional Transport Network and contributing to the regional integration of the partners as a step towards European integration, this year conference puts the focus on the key lessons from the previous years' experience of the SEETO process as well as on the challenges for creation of an efficient transport system by removing the non-physical barriers.

On the occasion of the Annual Meeting of Ministers, the Multi Annual Plan 2011 is being delivered. It presents a regional transport planning document agreed jointly by all Regional Participants in order to serve them primarily as a platform for the most efficient use of funds for development of the Core Regional Transport Network and help them in streamlining the transport reforms. The reported investments in the Core Network from 2004 to 2009 are €5.559 billion and the total value of all MAP Priority Projects with secured financing in the last four years is €3.198 billion, out of which approximately one third are already implemented. The MAP 2011 identifies 38 priority projects. From this overall priority list, there are 22 priority projects at an advanced stage of maturity and 16 at conceptual stage. The total investment cost requirements for all MAP 2011 priority projects are € 3.607 billion.

In addition to the recognition of the progress made in the development of the Core Network and alignment to the standards of the Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T), the Participants acknowledge the need for continuous investments in the transport infrastructure as well as the necessity for further reforms in line with the EU Transport and TEN-T policy.

In the Conclusions released on the SEETO Annual Meeting of Ministers, the Ministers support the SEETO sustainability and welcome the progress in the railways and road safety. They also undertake political commitment to take on necessary measures in overcoming the non-physical barriers and stress the importance of inland waterway transport in the regional co-modal transport system and the need for improvement of the data collection process.

As a positive example of the regional cooperation in the transport area among the SEETO Regional Participants, the Annual Meeting of Ministers will be followed by signing of Bilateral Agreements for the Sava River and Svilaj Bridge by the relevant Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, as well as Memorandum of Understanding on Reconstruction and Modernization of Route 2b Sarajevo-Podgorica-Tirana between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania.