

3rd Road Safety Working Group Meeting (RSWG) Podgorica, May 4th, 2012

Present:

RS WG Members:

- Nikolin Berxhiku, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Albania,
- Drazen Antolovic, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia,
- Valben Mustafa, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- Dalibor Milosevic, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Montenegro,
- Jasmina Jovanovic, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Serbia,
- Rame Qupeva, Ministry of Infrastructure, Kosovo*,
- Nenad Nikolic, General Manager, SEETO.

Guests and observers:

- Edmond Kazazi, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Albania,
- Davor Palcic, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia,
- Igor Banovic, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Montenegro,
- Olivera Stevic-Ledencan, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Serbia,
- Jaup Hoti, Ministry of Infrastructure, Kosovo*,
- Amna Redzepagic, Regional Cooperation Council,
- Jonas Hermanson, Swedish Transport Administration, Sweden,
- Torsten Bergh, Swedish Transport Administration, Sweden.

Apologies for absence from

- Kemal Karkin, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Vjekoslav Bolanca, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia,
- Kiril Karkalasev, Agency for State Roads, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
- Miroslav Masic, Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Montenegro,
- Demir Hadzic, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Serbia.

The background documents referred to in these minutes were sent in advance and hardcopies were distributed to all participants.

Introduction and welcome, adoption of the agenda

Since, last Chairman of RSWG Mr. Repussard was retired between two RSWG meetings Mr. Nikolic opened 3rd RSA WG meeting and welcomed all attendants. Furthermore, he asked all representatives to introduce themselves.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Mr. Nikolic stressed the importance of Road Safety Working Group in SEETO cooperation, informing the RSWG members on the firm support of the Steering Committee to continue with Working Group activities.

Proposed Agenda of the 3rd RS WG meeting was adopted.

Prominent member of RSWG Mr. Antolovic was proposed as candidate for RSWG Chairman. All Regional Participants (RP) supported this idea and Mr. Antolovic was elected as RSWG Chairman. He thanked for support, took the chair and presented some of the ideas for future RSWG work.

Conclusion:

- *Mr. Antolovic was elected as SEETO RSWG Chairman.*

Item 1 SEETO RP road safety situation in year 2011

Since, almost one and a half years passed from last RSWG meeting each RP was kindly requested to give short report on the current road safety situation.

Mr. Milosevic said that Road Safety Strategy in Montenegro is adopted and that MoI were in charge for preparation. One of the goals is to cut road deaths for 50% and 70% less traffic accidents. Road safety agency or similar body is not defined yet. Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs are dedicated to improve road infrastructure through rehabilitation and reconstruction of high risk road sections and bottlenecks. Road safety situation in 2011 is improved in comparison with 2010.

Mr. Qupeva informed RSWG that first reading of Kosovo`s Road Safety Strategy and Action Plans is on-going and that new Law on Road Safety is in preparation. MoI is in charge for road safety legislation and enforcement and Road Safety Council is in place. In 2011 number of accidents rose, but number of killed decreased, especially pedestrians.

Mr. Mustafa said that on the basis of Transport Strategy – Road Safety Strategy was proposed by Road Safety Council and adopted by Parliament. Coordination body for monitoring of Strategy implementation is established, having all relevant stakeholders onboard. Mr. Mustafa stressed that preparations for Directive 2008/96 implementation are on-going.

Ms. Jovanovic stressed that new Law on Road Safety is adopted in 2010 and that Road Safety Agency and inter-ministerial coordination body for road safety (in March 2012) are established. MoI is in charge for billing the law and enforcement. She stated that National Road Safety Strategy is under preparation. Unfortunately, number of killed in 2011 increased.

Mr. Berxhiku stated road safety goals for Albania which are adjusted with EU best practice. MoI are in charge for enforcement, while Ministerial Council is established for coordination. Road safety statistics are collected by MoI and in 2011 number of killed decreased by 8%

and number of accidents rose by 16%. Law on Road safety is recently modified with introduction of demerit points, mandatory CPC, driver licenses, higher fines, etc. MoT is active in implementation of Action Plan for infrastructure improvement (2011-15) as well as black spot management introduction.

Mr. Antolovic showed presentation where road safety trends in last few years are followed, acknowledging that road safety situation in Croatia improved. Croatian National Road Safety Program for 10 years is adopted as well as new Law on Roads which putting the ground for RSA implementation. Relevant strategy and legislation is prepared in line with EU Acquis.

Item 2 Road Safety Audit implementation – EU members experience

Mr. Torsten Bergh from Swedish Transport Administration gave presentation on implementation of Directive 2008/96 in Sweden and their future plans (ppt. disseminated to RSWG members).

On behalf of Mr. Lutz Pfeiffer, Chairman of the GRSA Association Berlin, Mr. Nikolic gave a presentation on RSA implementation in Germany with special focus on RSA reports and result of audits (ppt. disseminated to RSWG members).

Item 3 How to implement Directive 2008/96 requirements for effective implementation of RSA in the SEE region?

Mr. Milosevic stated that implementation of road infrastructure safety directive requirements is stated in the law. Currently, preparatory work on bylaws which are necessary for RSA implementation is ongoing. In that sense, additional clarification of some of the Directive articles and regional platform for training and preparation of training curricula is welcomed.

Legislation which tackling implementation of RSA is under preparation and passing public debate - stated Mr. Qupeva. Additional training of auditors and inspectors are required, since there is a lack of capacities for implementation of such complex tasks. Regional approach is more efficient and welcomed.

In Albania implementation of RSA is stated in the law, where detail description of procedures and responsible institutions are presented. RSA is commissioned by road administration, while MoT is in charge to monitor the situation. Training of auditors should be performed by certified University.

Mr. Mustafa informed that parts of directive are transposed in the Law on Road Safety and Law on Roads. Implementation of RSA/RSI is mandatory, but additional bylaws for implementation are required.

In Serbia mandatory implementations of RSA/RSI are foreseen in the Law on Road Safety. Similar to the other RP, bylaws required for directive implementation are in the billing

procedure. Road administration is in charge for RSA implementation, but curricula for training of auditors are not adopted.

In Croatia implementation of Directive 2008/96 is mandatory by new Law on Roads. Grounds for audit phases, auditor`s training and curricula will be presented at new bylaws which are to be prepared. Coordination of directive implementation on regional basis is welcomed.

Conclusion:

- *All RP started with implementation of Directive 2008/96 and many of them made RSA mandatory in legislation,*
- *Bylaws which will precisely describe implementation are missing in majority of cases,*
- *Regional RSA training curricula elaboration and training of small group of experts are welcomed.*

Item 4 Regional Initiatives for implementation of RSA

Mr. Nikolic made short resume of SEETO initiative for implementation of RSA training. As a follow up of RWR/RSA Project, Terms of Reference for training of RSA are prepared (ToR disseminated to SEETO SC members). The scope and content of ToR are adopted by SC, with remark that number of trainees, duration and value of project must be reduced. In SEETO Strategic Work Programme adopted by SC in November 2011 is clearly stated that one of the project tasks in 2012-13 should be training of RSA on regional basis. Most recently, advised by SEETO SC, Secretariat is trying to get in touch with several EU best performing countries to explore the possibility of establishment of twinning for training of RSA.

Regional Cooperation Council putting a lot of efforts in promotion of road safety in the Western Balkans aiming to improve regional cooperation and sharing of best practice. One of the topics stated in RCC programme is to help to RP to implement 2008/96 Directive and to promote regional center for training of auditors. Several conferences on directive implementation were co-organized with international and regional partners and main conclusion was that education and dissemination of best practice should play a crucial role in RSA implementation. Ms. Redzepagic presented RCC initiative to launch training of auditors on the regional basis, clearly stated that cooperation with SEETO is required.

Item 5 Possible topics for next RSWG meeting

Several RP in their discussions came to the point that topic as: *road safety strategy, future of road safety cooperation, road safety management, data collection, implementation of in-depth analysis or road accidents, cost of road accidents, etc.* should be further elaborated and became topics for next RSWG meetings.

Mr. Antolovic highlighted the possibility to invite some foreign experts to share best practice and new ideas with RP. Mr. Nikolic asked RSWG members to send their ideas by e-mail and thanked to all Participants for their contribution. Also, he thanked to EC who provided all necessary funds and arrangements for RSWG meeting in Podgorica.

Item 7 Next meeting and AOB

Mr. Nikolic pointed out that another one meeting of RSWG is foreseen in fall 2012. Participants will be informed on venue and dates as soon as available.

Mr. Antolovic thanked to all attendants for participation, closing the meeting.