

Eighth Annual Meeting of Ministers on the Development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network

“Common problems – Shared solutions”

**December 4th, 2012
Zagreb**

CONCLUSIONS

Participants to the Memorandum of Understanding on Development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network (MoU),

Having regard to:

- the long-term objectives arising from the MoU and subsequent Railway Addendum, as well as the results achieved from its implementation over a time span of eight years;
- the previous seven Annual Meetings of Ministers held consecutively from 2005 to 2011;
- the recommendations from the SEETO Steering Committee in 2012 and the conclusions from the IPF Transport Sector Workshop held on November 8-9, 2012 in Dubrovnik;
- the revision of the TEN-T Guidelines under discussion in the European Parliament and the Council;
- the considerations for the EU financial assistance for the Western Balkans for the period 2014-2020, as well as,
- the entry of Croatia in the European Union foreseen on July 1st 2013

Adopt the following

Strategic conclusions:

- **Acknowledge** the significant progress made in the regional transport planning, by endorsing the agreed *SEETO Comprehensive Network Development Plan 2013*, including the results of the *Methodology for rating SEETO priority projects*, which gives further credibility to the overall process and commitment for focused and smart investments in time of stringent economic measures
- **Re-assure** the prospects of the SEETO Comprehensive Network to become part of the extended TEN-T and demonstrate willingness to promote the idea, as well as to create conditions for the European Commission to be able to define *TEN-T Core Network in the South East Europe* (SEETO Core Network) with support of the EU Member States, for the purposes of creating an interconnected and interoperable network and achieving greater economic cohesion

- **Call for** a trans-national approach involving Regional Participants and EU Member States, particularly those neighbouring the South East Europe region, in addressing barriers created by physical and non-physical bottlenecks and in doing so, to undertake a pilot flagship project for a particular co-modal transport axis, including the possibility to extend the mandate of TEN-T Coordinators to the SEETO Comprehensive Network
- **Propose** to relevant national authorities when approaching the financial institutions, as well as to the decision making bodies within the WBIF and IPA structures, to take in due account the achieved results of SEETO, in particular the priority project list and agreed set of horizontal measures in the SEETO Multi Annual Plan 2013
- **Welcome** the finalisation of the accession of Croatia to the EU and note the regional effects it will have on the SEETO Comprehensive Network and SEETO, as well as encourage the Steering Committee to endorse the further involvement of the Croatian authorities in the SEETO structures given the numerous advantages for transfer of best practices and experiences from the enlargement process
- **Encourage** rapid finalisation of the procedure for initialling the Transport Community Treaty which aims to establish an integrated market for infrastructure and transport, and to enhance the transport operations within the region and with the EU

Operational conclusions:

- In order to enable timely, thorough and up-to-date analysis to support the developments of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, Regional Participants shall undertake necessary steps to ensure quality data on transport and infrastructure are assembled through SEETIS III, which is going to be made technically compatible with the TENtec system, as well as shall made available a summary overview of relevant transport related legislation
- Regional Participants shall take full ownership over the process of preparation and the results to emerge from the update of the Regional Transport Study (REBIS), which is going to be conducted under leadership of the World Bank with full expert and technical support of SEETO
- Regional Participants, European Commission and interested EU Member States shall actively support the coordination within established initiatives, notably the *EU Strategy for the Danube Region* and between SEETO and other regional organisations such are *CEFTA* and *RCC*, in order to jointly develop project initiatives aiming to stimulate the development of co-modality and sustainable transport systems, attract regional and international transport flows, and further facilitate transport operations and trade on particular co-modal transport axis, including the rail freight corridors

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- Regional Participants, through the SEETO Secretariat, shall seek assistance to develop a project fiche and support a project related to implementation of the railway acquis, on the basis of the identified areas for further interventions in the adopted SEE Rail Reform Progress Report 2012
 - Regional Participants accept the new formula for SEETO budget contribution adopted by the Steering Committee, to be in force as of 1st of January 2013, as presented in the Annex I, thus ensuring the sustainability of the SEETO Secretariat

Annex I

Based on the SEETO Steering Committee Decision brought on the 34th SEETO Steering Committee Meeting, held in Kotor on October 16th, 2012, the model for calculation of the Regional Participant`s contribution to the 2013 SEETO budget will be as follows:

SEETO Budget Contribution for period January 01st – June 30th, 2013

Signatories	Fixed (%)	Variable (%)	Total (%)
Albania	10	2.7	12.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4	14
Croatia	10	9.75	19.75
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10	2.3	12.3
Montenegro	10	0.9	10.9
Serbia	10	9.15	19.15
Kosovo*	10	1.2	11.2
Total Contribution:	70	30	100

SEETO Budget Contribution for period July 01st – December 31st, 2013 and 2013 Budget Reserve

Signatories	Fixed (%)	Variable (%)	Total (%)
Albania	11.7	4	15.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11.7	5.92	17.62
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11.7	3.41	15.11
Montenegro	11.7	1.33	13.03
Serbia	11.7	13.36	25.06
Kosovo	11.7	1.78	13.48
Total investment:	70.2	29.8	100

Presented SEETO Contribution Calculation Formula refers only to year 2013, while for 2014 new contribution calculation formula will be adopted. The new formula for 2014 has to be adopted by the SEETO Steering Committee latest by June 30th, 2013.

* 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.