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

“Common problems – Shared solutions”

**December 3rd, 2013
Brussels**

CONCLUSIONS

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

Having regard to:

- the progress made in the regional transport planning conducted by SEETO structures under the auspices of the MoU in 2013;
- the previous eight Annual Meetings of Ministers held consecutively from 2005 to 2012;
- the evolving context of the regional transport policy and consequently, the need to appropriately adjust the strategic transport planning;
- the impact of the Croatian accession to the European Union since July 1st, 2013, on the overall regional perspective and on the practicalities of the work of SEETO;
- the considerations for the EU financial assistance for the Western Balkans for the period 2014-2020, as well as,
- the aim to further enhance the regional transport planning process under the future legal and institutional arrangements

Agree on the following Conclusions:

- **Endorse** the *SEETO Comprehensive Network Development Plan 2014*, to serve as a solid tool for planning the investments and policy measures on the SEETO Comprehensive Network by the national authorities, European Commission and International Financial Institutions

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- **Commit** to rapid finalisation of the procedure for signature and implementation of 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
 - **Recognise** the significance of the *Regional Transport Study* (update of REBIS), which is going to be conducted under leadership of the World Bank with support of the entire SEETO structure, as well as the fresh impetus it will create for further work on the regional strategic framework for Western Balkans' multimodal transport system development
 - **Support** the *Multimodal flagship axis initiative*, with main objective to cut the travel time and transport costs on selected SEETO Comprehensive Network axes by performing in depth analysis of the potential physical and non-physical bottlenecks as well as identification and implementation of remedial measures
 - **Encourage** the continuous implementation of the *Addendum on SEE Common Railway Area* and the related projects and policy reforms for improving the efficiency of the railway system, as well as to underpin the necessity for growth of environmentally friendly modes of transport, including the inland waterways, with a view of developing sustainable co-modal chain
 - **Welcome** the crucial work to be performed in the area of road safety, by employing a more strategic approach concerning the road safety on a regional level and by development of SEETO training programme for road safety auditors, whose work is expected to improve the safety of the road infrastructure
