

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

**“Common problems – Shared solutions”**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

**Brussels**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

The Vice President of the European Commission, Mr. Siim Kallas and the South East European Transport Observatory (SEETO) are hosting the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Ministers** for development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, which is going to be held **on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 in Brussels (hotel Thon City Centre)**.

The Meeting shall be 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\* as well as the European Commission, EU Member States, International Financial Institutions and various transport related organisations.

On the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> SEETO Annual Meeting of Ministers, the **Multi Annual Development Plan 2014** shall be delivered. It presents a regional transport planning document, agreed jointly by all SEETO Participants that gives an overview of the development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, presents the main regional priority projects and streamlines further reforms in the transport sector. In the Plan, total of €13.2 billion is reported that was invested in the SEETO Comprehensive Network since 2004, while the total estimated costs for all priority projects for implementation from the 2014 Priority Project List amounts to € 8.3 billion, to be carried out in the next midterm rolling period.

In the Conclusions to be adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> SEETO Annual Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers support the *Multimodal Flagship Axes Initiative* which aim is to cut the travel time and transport costs on selected axes from the SEETO Comprehensive Network and recognise the significance of the *Regional Transport Study* update which should elaborate priority measures for physical and non-physical barriers. In that respect, they agree to work together for enhancing the efficiency of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, not only by physical improvements, but also by facilitating the transport operations along the network.

\*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



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**South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO)** is a regional transport organisation established by the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 by the Governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the European Commission. The aim of SEETO is to promote cooperation on the development of the main and ancillary infrastructure on the multimodal SEETO Comprehensive Network and to promote and enhance local capacity for the implementation of investment programmes, management and data collection and analysis on the SEETO Comprehensive Network. More information can be found on [www.seeto.int.org](http://www.seeto.int.org).