

THE STATE OF RAILWAY SECTOR IN KOSOVO*

(March 20, 2014)

From the last information on November 2012 in the RWG SEETO meeting, there were some changes and important movements which happened in Railway Sector in Kosovo. As usually I will mention the most important issues which happened during this time.

1. On 28.06.2013 Minister of infrastructure based on existing Railway Law has signed two important Administrative Instructions:
 - Administrative instruction on detailing the rules to be used to establish and receive the payment for infrastructure access charges
 - Administrative instruction on detailing the direct costs related to infrastructure maintenance and operation of train services.

With these instructions is opened the “way” that IM can make a Network Statement based on Kosovo Railway Law, Directive 2001/14/EC on the allocation of railway infrastructure capacity and the levying of charges for the use of railway infrastructure and safety certification and the Directive 2012/34/EU establishing a single European railway area.

2. RRA (Railway Regulatory Authority) with its Independent Railway Bodies is fully established and working in full capacity. RRA in 2012/2013 has supplied INFRAKOS and TRAINKOS with needed licenses, safety certificates and safety authorisations, based on the Railway Law.
3. Feasibility study for rehabilitation of East-West railway lines in Kosovo is completed in January 2013.
4. Supported by EBRD, WBIF has approved 1.84 Mil. Euros for Detailed Technical Project Design for general rehabilitation of the Southern part of the Railway Route 10. This project should start this year. At the same time Government is in negotiation with INFRAKOS and EBRD for financing of the rehabilitation of mentioned line.
5. As I mentioned in the last information, Railway Border Crossing Agreement with Macedonia is signed on 19th of September 2011. Unfortunately except Kosovo and Macedonian railway companies which are finalizing their agreements there are no movements of other interested parties (Customs, Border Police, Sanitarian, and others) to set out sub agreements for their fields.
6. INFRAKOS has prepared a NS for 2013 and after consultation process (in which process were all interested parties), Minister of Infrastructure has approved Track Access Charges. Same procedure has been done for NS of 2014. In 2013 Government has subsidised INFRAKOS for the part of the difference between proposed and approved TAC. Same will happen in 2014.

* "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"

7. Infrastructure Manager – INFRAKOS has drafted a seven years strategic business plan which will be sent to the line ministries for discussion and approval.
8. After the approval of INFRAKOS business plan government will sign five years Financial Agreement which should be signed by the Government.
9. TRANKOS JSC has signed and implemented a PSO Contract with Ministry of Infrastructure for 2013. With the same conditions it is signing a Contract for 2014 according to the Law on Kosovo Railways.
10. There are ongoing discussions with Government Authorities to make functioning Implementation Plan of Multi-Modal Transport Strategy thru Mid Term Expenditure Framework for 2015-2018 for capital investments.

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