

“Latest regulatory and competition aspects of the railway service market”

The Albanian Railways S.a.

We do commence our summary on focus of the full engagement upon common working between the Albanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and its institutions and the Albanian Railways, as a pre-term of projects feasibility and services at rail sector.

First of all, as in the most recent presentation minutes from the Albanian Railways presented in the regional Meeting to market opening and harmonization through regional neighbouring with best practices and experiences, in October 2013, we have been going on our regional and European collaboration by reporting the changes especially in the field of social dialogue.

Our periodical data have been reported to the Observer of Transport for the South Eastern Europe SEETO, to the organizations that do support the Albanian Railways S.a with technical consulting on legislation at rail sector, to the International Transport Committee, to the Community of European Railways and companies of infrastructure, aiming at:

- The accurate and better comprehension of the European acquis,
- The EU Directives,
- The legal acts to their implementation and
- By being informed on issues of the Recast Directive and
- By being adequate to full compliance forecast of the Albanian legislation to those of EU.

The primary changement for the Authority of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure in Albania in autumn 2013 has reflected a fresh changement even for the management and Administration of the company the Albanian Railways S.a. with fully state owned capital and the new Supervisory Board of our railway company. We have had structural changement of our Railway Company and actual reduction in 1130 personnel.

It is focused on our common engagement at rail sector, especially on the projects funded by EU, and support to our vision and approach in common working, that is why the new governmental platform has been publishing the Action Plan at the Albanian Rail sector focusing on approval of the new railways Law.

The draft-Law on Railways is getting prepared and it is planning to might be adopeted and to might get into power within 2014. Preparation of the regulations in their draft format to its

implementation will start in 2014. The regulations to its implementation shall be adopted or modified in year 2015. The diagnosis to review the existing legal and institutional structure at the sector of rail transport gets elaborated up to now and it gets ongoing to might evaluate the actual legal and institutional structure toward the European ones.

“The Network Statement 2014” is finished to be published at website of the Albanian Railways in Albanian and in English through www.hekurudha.org

The intervention features as per national action plan from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure include interferences and legal amendments in Codes, laws, Decisions of the Council of Ministers, agreements among institutions or with companies of insurance, by achieving an institutional coordination, through public and private sector, institutions that get ready the policies and those that put into implementation.

Such a package convergs completely the new policies of the Albanian Governement in many directions among which refreshment of rail transport for passengers, by re-allocating the resources of the Albanian Railways even toward that service.

We are at the phase of process on structural and legal refoms to might increasing the public investment efficiency and improving the services to citizens. At the Western Balkan, we are active with the SEETO project, the forms to guarantee the investments, our collaboration with business, in consessionary relationships or public-private-partnership to these plans achievement.

In focus of development plans in the field of transport by using the transporting potentials, we see it is being integrated to the infrastructure forms such as in railway and intermodality.

At eve of the year 2014 it gets commenced the inception phase of the Technical Assistance project funded by EU (WYG International, GOPA Consultant and KLC Consulting) to the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure in Albania and institutions depending by it, with the project Steering Committee where the Administrator of the Albanian Railways S.a. is a member of it, for might contribute to the integration of Albania in full compliance of the EU legislation on transport.

With focus on drafting the new rail law as per EU acquis and the European and international standards, this draft-law aims to enforce the administrative, regulative and technical capacities of the Albanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and the National Railway Authority and the Maritime Administration. The new law on Railways in Albania is getting prepared and its first handover was in collaboration of all actors involved at rail transport sector.

It was submitted the final report of its inception phase and it was distributed to all participating actors that are involved in the work organized in forms of the technical groups set up even in the Albanian Railways, and the common technical working group of the Albanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure-the Albanian Railways-project team. There are collected due to the project activities the data for questionnaires on evaluation of the training needs at rail sector.

In January 2014 an agreement among Albania and Kosovo* gets institutionalized the collaboration in process and it makes possible to get created a unique area of transport services with no barriers and by being sustainable as well as for having a better access either in the railway transport infrastructure to the benefit of our both countries.

Our regional states are in negotiation process to setting up a Treaty to one transport community with the Western Balkans, and to might create an integrated transport market with the European Union.

In April 2014 even Albania has approved the “Ministerial Statement to a green transport in the BSEC region”, with the necessity to might planning and intervening at rail transport as a protagonist actor toward a green transport. The prioritites in the Albanian Railways do consist over improving the relations with neighbours, expecially with FYROM.

This is fully supported even by the vision of our railway company and the Adminsitration of the Albanian Railways S.a.

Else, actually we have been delivering our railway data to SEETIS report (multimodal transport) which shall serve to MAP (Multi Annual Plan 2015-2019) the document where for every year Albania reports its main data:

- Infrastructure and Traffic data;
- Data on accidents and on border crossings;
- Maintenance costs data
- Projects (priorities and non-priorities)

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