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## SEETO 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Skopje

*10 years of cooperation:*

*A Decade of the Regional Cooperation in Transport Development in the South East Europe*

### CONCLUSIONS

*Participants on the Tenth Annual Meeting of Ministers on the development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network:*

- **Acknowledging** the progress made in the regional transport planning conducted in the past 10 years by SEETO under the framework of the *Memorandum of Understanding on the development of the South East Europe Core Regional Transport Network (2004)*;
  - **Recognising** the importance of the regional cooperation and the previous nine Annual Meetings of the Ministers, consecutively held since 2005;
  - **Acknowledging** the evolving context of the regional transport policy and the need to appropriately coordinate the strategic transport planning;
  - **Welcoming** the inclusion of the SEETO Network as the indicative extension of the wider TEN-T Network into the Western Balkans;
  - **Welcoming** the Conclusions from the Joint Ministerial Statement on the *Western Balkans six* initiative (Belgrade, 23.10.2014);
  - **Appreciating** the EU financial assistance provided for the SEETO Flagship axes initiative, road safety auditing and improvement of transport data analysis;
  - **Bearing** in mind the results of the forthcoming Regional Transport Study (REBIS update);
  - **Bearing** in mind the results of SEETO Flagship axes initiative;
  - **Expressing** wish to further strengthen the close partnership and co-operation in order to foster the development of SEETO Comprehensive Network, being a precondition for a sustainable economic growth and increase of investments;
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Agree on the following conclusions:

1. The SEETO Comprehensive Network Development Plan 2015 is hereby endorsed, to serve as a solid tool for planning investments and policy measures on the SEETO Comprehensive Network by the national authorities, European Commission and International Financial Institutions;
2. We agree to apply a similar approach as in the TEN-T methodology for the future Core Network definition in the Western Balkans. We will base our own plans on the SEETO Comprehensive network as part of the EU TEN-T guidelines and on the bilateral discussions with the European Commission. This will extend the European Core Network to the Western Balkans, allow speeding up policy and regulatory reforms and concentrate investments on key corridors and interconnectors;
3. The procedure for initialling and ratification of the Transport Community Treaty, which aims to establish an integrated transport and infrastructure market and to enhance the transport operations within the region and EU, should be finalised in due course;
4. The findings and results of the Regional Transport Study shall be examined in details by the transport authorities of the Regional Participants and European Commission and they could become an element of further regional transport planning through WB6 connectivity initiative;
5. Commitment for implementation of the upcoming SEETO Flagship axes Action Plan under umbrella of SEETO Working Group on Transport Facilitation;
6. Further commitment for railway development in the region shall be ensured through revisiting of the Addendum goals, new strategic directions and pilot projects with support from the European Commission;
7. Gives the full support of the SEETO Steering Committee in order to implement the above conclusions and making decisions in the future, in part of their jurisdiction.

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