

11th Annual Meeting of Ministers
on the Development of the
TEN-T Comprehensive and Core Network for Western Balkans

December 3rd, 2015
Location: Tirana
Venue: Hotel Sheraton

Press Release

The South East European Transport Observatory (SEETO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Albania are hosting the **11th Annual Meeting of Ministers** for development of the indicative TEN-T Comprehensive and Core Network for Western Balkans, which is going to be held **in Hotel Sheraton, Tirana on December 3rd, 2015.**

The Meeting shall be attended by high level delegations from the Transport and Infrastructure Ministries of the Western Balkans countries as well as the European Commission, EU Member States, International Financial Institutions and various transport related organisations.

On the occasion of the 11th SEETO Annual Meeting of Ministers, the 2015 **Multi Annual Network Development Plan** 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 and Core Network, presents the main regional priority projects and streamlines further reforms in the transport sector. In the Plan, the total reported investments. Total investments, disbursed and committed, on the TEN-T Comprehensive Network to the Western Balkans amounted to **€12 billion** in the period from 2004 until today. What is most encouraging is the constant increase in committed investments despite the strong impact of the global economic crisis. €5.75 billion or 48% of total investments was already disbursed while the remaining 52% or €6.27 billion is considered as committed investments to be carried out in the next midterm rolling period.

In the Conclusions to be adopted by the 11th SEETO Annual Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers commit to further speed up policy and regulatory reforms and concentrate investments on key corridors and interconnectors, in line with the Connectivity Agenda of the Western Balkans Six (WB6) process. Following the extension of the TEN-T Core Network and Core Corridors to the Western Balkans, the regional network has the chance to be ultimately interconnected with the wider EU network. The participants to the AMM agree to give highest priority to the implementation of the pre-identified infrastructure projects on the TEN-T Core Network for the Western Balkans, as well as to make efforts for implementation of the agreed and committed soft measures in order to address barriers created by physical and non-physical bottlenecks.

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.seetoint.org.

*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