
SEETO 11th ANNUAL MEETING OF MINISTERS

December 3rd, 2015

Tirana

Regional Cooperation in Transport Development in the South East Europe

CONCLUSIONS

Participants on the 11th Annual Meeting of Ministers on the development of the indicative extension of the TEN-T Comprehensive and Core Network to the Western Balkans:

- **Acknowledging** the progress made in the regional transport planning conducted by SEETO under the framework of the *Memorandum of Understanding on the development of the South East Europe Core Regional Transport Network* (2004) and the subsequent *Railway Addendum* (2007);
 - **Recognising** the importance of the regional cooperation and the previous ten Annual Meetings of the Ministers, held consecutively from 2005 to 2015;
 - **Acknowledging** the significance of the regional transport policy and the need to appropriately coordinate the strategic transport planning;
 - **Welcoming** the evolving context of the Western Balkan 6 (WB6) initiative and the indicative extension of the TEN-T Core Network to Western Balkans;
 - **Welcoming** the conclusions from the WB6 Vienna Summit (27.08.2015) and the agreed list of infrastructure and policy reform ("soft measures");
 - **Appreciating** the EU financial assistance for development of infrastructure and soft projects in the Western Balkans for the period 2014-2020;
 - **Bearing** in mind the results of the Regional Transport Study (REBIS update), SEETO Flagship axes initiative and the EU financial assistance provided for the road safety auditing and improvement of transport data analysis;
 - **Expressing** wish to further strengthen the close partnership and co-operation in order to foster the development of the indicative extension of the TEN-T Comprehensive and Core Network to the Western Balkans, being a precondition for a sustainable economic growth and increase of investments;
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Agree on the following conclusions:

1. The *SEETO Multi Annual Development Plan 2016* is hereby endorsed, to serve as a solid tool for planning investments and policy measures on the indicative extension of the TEN-T Comprehensive and Core Network to the Western Balkans by the national authorities, European Commission and International Financial Institutions;
2. We support the indicative *extension of the TEN-T Core Network and Core Corridors to the Western Balkans as well as the extension of mandate of the TEN-T Coordinators* to Western Balkans, which should speed up policy and regulatory reforms and concentrate investments on key corridors and interconnectors;
3. The modification proposals of the indicative extension of the TEN-T Comprehensive Network for Western Balkans, which were discussed and agreed through the consultation process on the SEETO Steering Committee Meetings during 2015 under the SEETO framework, are hereby endorsed¹. The discussion shall continue in order to agree in detail the exact alignments and links between the Regional Participants themselves and with EU neighbouring countries. The modification shall be further confirmed through the EU revision process of the TEN-T Guidelines in order to officially include Regional Participants' proposals in the EU TEN-T legislation;
4. We concur on the need for sporadic *modification of the indicative extension of the TEN-T Comprehensive and Core Network to the Western Balkans*, in order to reduce shortfalls in regional connectivity;
5. Implementation of the *pre-identified infrastructure projects* on the indicative extension of the TEN-T Core Network for the Western Balkans is given the highest priority and therefore, joint efforts are needed by national authorities and European Commission to conclude the financial arrangements and start the implementation;
6. We shall make efforts for *implementation of the agreed and committed soft measures* in order to address barriers created by physical and non-physical bottlenecks. We support the work of SEETO Secretariat on monitoring implementation of the soft measures as well as the *SEETO Working Group on Transport Facilitation*;
7. *In this context, further commitment for railway development* in the region shall be ensured through revisiting of the Addendum goals as well as new strategic directions and projects with support from the European Commission;

¹ list of links is attached

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8. We welcome the *Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety* and reaffirm our commitment to the *global health target* of road safety adopted under the *Sustainable Development Goals*;
 9. Encourage *rapid finalisation* of the procedure for initialling the *Transport Community Treaty* which aims to establish an integrated market for infrastructure and transport, and to enhance the transport operations within the region and with the EU and support the accession process of the Regional Participants to the EU;
 10. 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.

List of the links

Indicative extension of the TEN-T Comprehensive Network to the Western Balkans	
Comprehensive Road Network - Modification Proposals	
1	BIH: Removal of road section from Croatian border to Banja Luka (Route 2a) and from Tuzla to Croatian border
2	SER: Inclusion of new road route Ruma - Šabac - Loznica SER /BiH border in order to connect Corridor Xb (SER) and Corridor Vc (BiH) as Route 9b
3	MKD: Miladinovci - Stip - Strumica - Novo Selo - border with Bulgaria, connecting Corridor X and VIII with Corridor IV in Bulgaria
4	MKD: Revised alignment from Trebeniste – Struga – Kjafasan (the border with the Republic of Albania), road section as part of Corridor VIII

Comprehensive Road/Rail Network Modification endorsed in Riga Ministerial Meeting, June 2015	
1	ALB: Inclusion of alignment from MNG/ALB Border (Muriqan) to Lezhe as a continuation of Route 1
2	BIH: Inclusion of the road section Banja Luka – Doboj - Tuzla
3	MNG: New alignment for Route 1 from Croatian border to Bar and extension to Sukobin/Muriqan border with Albania.
4	SER: Inclusion of new road route Novi Sad – Ruma
5	BIH: Inclusion of existing rail line from Croatian border/Dobrljin - Novi Grad- Banja Luka- Bosanska Poljana – Zvornik/ SER border as a continuation of SEETO Route 9a towards Corridor X in Serbia

6	SER: Inclusion of existing rail line Lapovo - Kraljevo as a direct connection between rail Corridor X and rail Route 10, as Route 10
7	SER: Inclusion of existing rail line Nis (Corridor X) - Doljevac (border with Kosovo*) - Pristina (Kosovo) as a connection between Corridor X and Route 10 (further to Corridor VIII in MKD) as Route 7

*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
