
5^h Transport Facilitation Working Group meeting

Location: Durres, Albania

October 05th, 2017

Venue: Hotel Pallace

<http://palacehotel.al/>

Draft Conclusions

General conclusions

- The TFWG welcomed the results from the Western Balkans 6 Summit held in July 2017 in Trieste, with reference to the progress made in the implementation of the connectivity reform measures. TFWG particularly welcomes the signing of the Transport Community Treaty which is expected to bring additional impetus to the reforms across all transport sectors and for the transport facilitation process in the Western Balkans
 - The connectivity reform measures management plan is a mechanism through which SEETO monitors the progress in the implementation, and the Regional Participants send regular information for the steps undertaken. Any needs for updates of the Connectivity plan should be expressed by the Regional Participants and the updates will reflect the recommendations of the TFWG members for specific sub-measures, as well as the developments in the projects under Connecta
 - The TFWG noted the commencement of the three Projects under Connecta for Road safety, ITS and Maintenance and the preliminary work carried out by now, as well as the readiness to start with the project on road border crossings facilitation. The Regional Participants are responsible for enabling the consultants' missions and contacts with the relevant national authorities, as well as provision of data for the needs of the Projects, through the national contact points appointed for each of the Projects. The SEETO Secretariat staff members in charge for monitoring of the Projects should be informed about all main implementation steps, and they will serve as regular channel for communication both with the consultants and the national contact points
 - The TFWG welcomes the Transport and Trade Facilitation Project initiated by the World Bank as it will complement the national efforts and the engaged EC
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TA (Connecta). The World Bank will look at to support concrete aspects of the areas of intervention where preliminary/preparatory work exists or embedded in the work carried out by Connecta, based on the needs of the countries. SEETO Secretariat should continue to play the coordination role in order to ensure synergies between the available assistance programmes.

- The participation and contribution of the operators and associations of transport carriers and Ports is extremely valuable and appreciated. Their requirements and legal, operational and technical demands are important to be reflected upon in updating the Connectivity plan and the overall agenda for addressing the non-physical barriers to a seamless transport and logistic chain on the Core corridors

Specific comments:

- Albania and Montenegro to inform SEETO and EC on the outcomes of the joint meeting scheduled on 9th of October, not later by 13th of October where it is expected to have all pending issues regarding the joint station in Tuzi resolved
 - Macedonian and Kosovo Border police and Customs to immediately exchange comments on the proposed Protocol and to organize a joint meeting to finalize and agree on the text of the protocol.
 - The meeting between the General directors of the Kosovo and Macedonian Custom authorities on 12th of October, should include topic for discussion regarding the Custom protocol for the joint rail border crossing agreement, and further steps for signature of protocols should be agreed. It is recommended that previously appointed contact points between the relevant agencies be present on the meeting
 - Serbia to inform SEETO and EC about the position of the Serbian authorities upon received comments from the Bulgarian side regarding the rail border crossing agreement
 - Macedonia to inform SEETO and EC about position of the Macedonian authorities upon received answer from the Greek side regarding the rail border crossing agreement
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina to inform SEETO and EC on the Croatian comments for the rail border crossing agreement once they are received
 - The involvement of EC in facilitating the issues between the SEETO Regional Participants and the EU MS in the joint rail border crossing agreements is highly welcomed
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- Implementation of IBM Agreement on building the crossing point in Merdare between Kosovo* and Serbia shall be reported regularly and upon the specific measures stipulated in the CRMMP. The conclusions from a recent meeting between Kosovo and Serbian side with regards to the overall IBM implementation could be shared with the SEETO Secretariat.
 - Kosovo proposed to have bilateral agreements on road transport signed with the SEETO Regional Participants, following the practise with other countries
 - The work of the CEFTA Secretariat on the trade facilitation agenda is seen complementary to the work of SEETO on transport facilitation, and the two umbrella institutions will continue to cooperate aiming at full implementation of the Connectivity plan and the Action plan for the Additional protocol 5 of the CEFTA agreement
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