

FIRST SEETAC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

3-4 February 2010 - Bucharest, Romania

Ramada Bucharest Parc Hotel

3-5 Poligrafiei Avenue

The Conference's objectives

The First SEETAC Ministerial Conference has identified the following discussion points:

- A focus on relevant transport issues at a high political level
- Facilitate a dialogue between major stakeholders involved in the current TEN-T guidelines revision
- Identification of urgent and medium term priorities
- Sharing information on financing needs and opportunities to help align policies to needs in the region

Transport-related issues

The European Union policy objectives promote environment- friendly means of transport, rail river and maritime transport in particular, with the aim to enhance inter-operability and inter-modality. How advanced is the implementation of these objectives in the South East European region? Infrastructure networks should facilitate economic growth, regional competitiveness, employment generation and territorial cohesion. How, in practice, can SEETAC's Member States maintain the proper balance between infrastructure development in economically advanced regions versus interventions in developing regions where additional infrastructure and improved accessibility could increase competitiveness and reduce the economic gap? Should large, visible TEN-T projects be implemented or rather should there be a prioritization of the overall efficiency of the networks?

Infrastructure, Finance and North-South and East-West transport relations

The financial crisis has put a tremendous strain on public budgets. Lending to public private partnerships is less available and more expensive: is this a temporary situation, or has the market been affected permanently? What is the state of art in the current SEETAC countries ?Although the European Union funds have been anticipated trough the Economic Recovery Plan, what is needed in the coming years to create an integrated infrastructure system in the South Eastern Area? What could enhance the attractiveness of infrastructure projects? Is the North-South Axis the only transport relation for the SEE region? What transport strategy can be envisaged for the identification of priorities on East-West transport relations? How can the Danube river play a major role without excluding "non-Danube countries"?

First Day : 3 February

20.00 Official Dinner

Venue : Casa Doina Restaurant, RAMADA Parc Hotel

Second Day : 4 February

Venue : Terra Grand Ball Room, RAMADA Parc Hotel

9.00 – 9.30 *Welcome Coffee*

9.30 – 10.30 *Official Opening*

- Opening address : *Romanian Minister, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (tbc)*
- Opening speech : *Minister Mykola Melenevsky, CEI Deputy Secretary General*
- **Presentations**
- *Carlo Fortuna, SEETAC Content Manager, Central European Initiative: The SEETAC Project in the context of TEN-T Revision*

10.30 – 11.30 *First Session: State of art and current priorities, main projects and problems*

Chair: Carlo Fortuna, Central European Initiative

Each participating country should make a brief presentation of the current state of art in the respective country in corridors description, bottlenecks, cross-border problems (admin problems etc), recent traffic studies on corridor sections, investment plans and identification of ministerial priorities within SEETAC project with discussion on a possible general SEETAC strategy (e.g.: reinforce transport links and cooperation between Adriatic sea, Danube river and Black sea).

11.30 - 11.45 *Coffee break*

11.45 – 13.00 Round Table : transport axis, joint policy actions towards the South Eastern Europe transport integration.

Chair and Moderator : *Şerban Alexandru Cucu, Romanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure*

Open moderated discussion on the following topics: identification of policy actions to be implemented within the project in rail, maritime, logistic sector multi-modal traffic solutions.

Discuss the possibility of signing an Agreement or a Letter of intent (LoI) within the framework of the Project, and on the content of possible Agreement: establishment of a Regional Steering Committee, Promoting identified actions in maritime, rail sector in order to develop specific transport axis/corridors, procedure and Draft plan of action and the involvement of EU Institutions (Commission, CoR etc).

13.00 – 13.15 Wrap up and Conclusion of the Meeting

Mr Şerban Alexandru Cucu, Romanian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

13.15 End of the Conference

13.15 - 14.30 Lunch : Jasmine Restaurant – RAMADA Parc Hotel