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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Twentieth session  
Geneva, 13-14 September 2007  
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Draft Minutes  
of the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pan-European  
Transport Corridor VI, Trieste, Italy  
22 June 2007**

**Participation**

1. The seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pan-European Transport Corridor (PETC) VI on kind invitation of Regional Minister of Transport Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region Mr. L. Sonogo took place in the premises of the Chamber of Commerce in Trieste, Italy, on 22 June 2007. Representatives of six countries: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Italy, Austria and Hungary (in observer capacity) participated in the meeting. Chairmen of PETC IV, V and VII, representative of PETC X as well as representatives of Central European Initiative, the local Austrian Government of Carinthia, Austrian Railways OBB, TINA Vienna Office and several Italian institutions took part, too. The TEM secretariat was represented by the Project Manager of the TEM PCO.

**Boat trip in the Trieste port**

2. Before the SC meeting formally started, all attendees had an opportunity to visit the selected facilities in the Trieste port, especially its container terminal and perform a boat trip between its old and new parts. From the competent port representatives they obtained information regarding its technical parameters, sorts of goods handled and logistical services offered to clients from Italy and abroad. They also stressed very good conditions and reasonable prices for port's services and encouraged the representatives of countries present to test them.

## **Baltic-Adriatic Corridor – Plenary Session**

### **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

3. Mr. W. Zarnoch (Poland), the Chairman of the Steering Committee opened the meeting, welcomed its participants and informed them about its programme. In principle the programme consisted of two parts; Baltic–Adriatic Corridor – Plenary session and SC of the PETC VI – Working session. He extended his thanks to Mr. L. Sonogo, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, representing the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, the host and to the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce in Trieste.

4. Mr. L. Sonogo in his short address underlined the importance of Baltic–Adriatic Corridor connection as one of the projects which fully fit to expectations of many Europeans. He also expressed the wish of inhabitants of Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region to further develop the cooperation with all involved countries, not with their immediate neighbours only.

5. Mr. C. Paoletti, President of the Chamber of Commerce in Trieste (founded 1755) welcomed the organisation of the SC meeting of PETC VI in Trieste. He expected from the extension of the PETC VI to Adriatic Sea not an impulse and support for development of trade only, but for an improvement of transport and tourism as well.

6. Mr. W. Zarnoch stressed that this SC meeting venue and programme were not typical as it were focused on the southern part of the extended Corridor VI with an aim to discuss, gather and evaluate all arguments for its formal extension immediately upon such an opportunity occurs.

### **Recent developments of TEN-T**

7. In the absence of representative of the EC, Mr. W. Zarnoch, the Chairman of PETC VI described the present status and development in the TEN-T; conditions of its priority projects financing and preparation of the EC for the future updating of the TEN-T. He also shortly informed about the course of 10<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas Coordinators Group in Brussels on 7 February 2007 and about the following important EC document issued recently: Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament; Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and Guidelines for Transport in Europe and neighbouring countries. The main problem for quick implementation of 30 priority projects may rest in the lack of resources for their construction. From the estimated cost of 366 billion Euro, only 8 are secured and at the EC disposal. Moreover, there is a big competition to insert a new projects into the existing list.

8. In reaction to Mr. Zarnoch's presentation, Mr. R. Ferrazza and Mr. H. Adelsberger, who both participated in the Brussels meeting, conveyed their concern regarding the Priority project financing and completion of the TEN-T network, requiring approximately 600 billion Euro. They also expressed their opinion that for a smooth implementation of the 5 axes as identified by the HLG, a binding (legal) document was necessary (approved by the EC and involved countries) as the Memorandum of Understanding seemed to be insufficient.

## **Introduction to Baltic-Adriatic Corridor**

9. Mr. H. Adelsberger and Mr. W. Zarnoch, who initiated the signing of the Letter of Intent on the Development of the Baltic-Adriatic Transport Corridor between the Ministries of the five involved countries in October last year, summarized the background of this event and indicated the expected next steps. They both welcomed an interest and effort from countries and regions along the Baltic – Adriatic Corridor and expressed their opinion that “the Letter of Intent...” will bring an impetus for improvement of the existing status.

10. While describing the present transport environment, Mr. Adelsberger reported about the mostly poor rail connection and accessibility, which was considered as an essential drawback of development in the wider region.

## **Baltic-Adriatic Corridors - views and actual status**

11. Mr. G. Razza, General Manager of the PETC V Secretariat and at the same time also the representative of the Central European Initiative supported the extension of Corridor VI as proposed and expressed an opinion that it would improve cooperation between different authorities and institutions in the country and beyond.

12. Mr. P. Bonielli, representative of the port in Trieste, welcomed the organization of the meeting in Trieste, but stressed that materialization of the Corridor extension idea required a strong political will and commitment from the state as well as from the region. He also pointed out that the proper time for implementation of Corridor was important.

13. In the framework of information on planned actions, Mr. T. Wimroither brought to participants interesting facts on Austrian Rails and the RailNet Europe.

14. Mr. H. Schuschnig, representative of the Carinthia Government also welcomed the idea of extension of the Corridor VI southwards. He introduced his country as crossroads of several important transport corridors (X, VI and V nearby) and appreciated initiatives of all those who assisted in this matter. Moreover, he submitted information about a successful implementation of some EU Interreg III B Projects (Imonode, AlpFRail, Matriosca ...). In the future, it is intended to devote support to the “Koralmbahn tunnel” construction (32km long) as the decisive section of the proposed Corridor VI extension.

15. Brief information on actual status of the Corridor VI in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia was presented by Mr. W. Zarnoch. Detailed information was offered later in the second part of the meeting by the representatives of countries.

16. Mr. H. Adelsberger submitted information about the present status and planned investment in the time horizon 2007-2013 on Austrian territory.

17. Mr. R. Ferazza stressed the importance of modernization of the Pontebana railway line in northern Italy and submitted information regarding the planned investments in Italy in the years 2007-2013.

## **Conclusions**

18. Mr. W. Zarnoch summarized the opinions of participants to the implementation of the Baltic–Adriatic Corridor as follows:

- the Baltic–Adriatic Corridor represents one of the most important routes in an enlarged Europe,
- it plays also a significant role for regional connections, particularly in Austria and Italy,
- it creates a new impetus for economic, social and political stability,
- involved countries should complete their sections in reasonable time which should be approved and harmonized,
- it is assumed that priority project No. 23 on Corridor VI will be extended to Vienna-Graz-Klagenfurt-Udine-Bologna,
- the representatives of Austria and Italy are encouraged to elaborate a common report on present status along the Corridor and to propose ways of future effective cooperation at both governmental and non-governmental levels.

## **Steering Committee of Pan European Transport Corridor VI - Working Session**

### **Introduction**

19. Mr. W. Zarnoch, the Chairman of the SC of the PETC VI opened this part by evaluating the cooperation between the countries involved and mentioning activities regarding the Corridor VI since the sixth SC of the PETC meeting in Ostrava on 13 November 2006.

### **Present status and future plans in Corridor VI**

20. Representatives of countries started an information on progress by presentation of roads first followed by railways.

21. Mr. M. Rolla (Poland) presented the Polish part of the road corridor. He introduced the present status as of 1 January 2007. The construction of the A1 motorway continued according to the plan. The double carriageway section Bielsko Biala-Cieszyn will be finished this year. Reconstruction of the road Zywiec-Zwardon (SK), having partly expressway parameters will be terminated in 2009. Reconstruction of the section Bielsko Biala-Zywiec will commence in 2008. Mr. Rolla underlined that the construction of the A1 motorway and of expressways along the Corridor VI belong to main priorities of his Government.

22. An information on the status of roads in the Czech Republic along the Corridor VI was offered Mr. P. Vujtech. He underlined that from the total length of the D47 motorway 80,2km, 17km would be put into operation this year and the rest would be completed either in 2008 or 2009. The construction works on the expressway R48 continued also according the plan. He also informed about the successful completion of the other motorway (D5) and about preparatory activities for the Brno–Vienna motorway.

23. Ms. E. Dulebova introduced the present situation on motorways and expressways in Slovakia, focused on the D3 motorway connecting Zilina with Svrčinovec at the Czech/Slovak border and Skalite at the Polish/Slovak border. She also informed about the progress reached on the other main routes in the country (Corridors IV and V).

24. Mr. M. Hantak presented an information on the local inspection of the road part of the PETC VI, section Zilina - Bielsko-Biala, carried out in May 2007. The competent officials from the respective Ministries and Road Administrations of both sides attended the inspection. This information was accompanied by the pictures prepared by the Secretariat, demonstrating the state of construction works/completed sections on both sides of the border (SK and PL) at the time of the inspection.

25. In his presentation, Mr. A. Bartoszewski (Poland) informed the meeting about the main activities on the Corridor VI railway (via Warsaw) to be upgraded by 2013. At present, works are concentrated on reconstruction of tracks (for 160 km/h speed) and modernization of some railway stations (Gdynia). The reconstructions of border sections to Czech Republic (Zebrzydowice) will start in 2007 and to Slovakia (Zwardon) in 2009.

26. Information on modernization of the whole Czech railway corridor was submitted by Mr. Kusnir, who stressed that after the completion of works on Corridor VI in 2005, the attention was focused on modernization of the four important railway stations (Bohumín, Ostrava, Prerov and Breclav).

27. Ms. E. Dulebova informed about the general situation regarding railways in Slovakia oriented at the reconstruction of selected main routes and Mr. Zarnoch added some complementary notes afterwards.

28. Ms. E. Kramer (Hungary), in the capacity of observer presented the status and possibilities of connections of the Hungarian rail and road network to Corridor VI, especially in the south-western part of the country and also to Corridors V, VII and X with their linkages in Budapest.

### **Co-operation within Baltic-Adriatic Corridor**

29. The Letter of Intent signed in Luxembourg on 12 October 2006 offered all involved countries new opportunities of deeper and more effective cooperation especially in matters concerning infrastructure implementation (Corridors, Priority projects...). Mr. W. Zarnoch as a Chairman introduced a few ideas regarding items 3, 4 and 5 which were discussed and approved by other participants. He recommended the following:

- (item 3 studies) Secretariat should collect information on studies focused on Corridor VI elaborated in each individual country. The list should contain not their scope, range, names of clients and year of their elaboration only, but also the name of the consultant who performed them, language and information where it can be found (or a brief summary).
- (item 4 exchange of information) Information collected by the Secretariat concerning the Corridor's SC Meetings are distributed regularly (twice a year). In case of a special

need, countries may ask for an additional information or data from the other countries via the Secretariat.

- (item 5 interoperability) Regular meetings on these topics are organized by the countries of the Visegrad Group or V4 (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovak Republic). One of them will be held in Bratislava on 29 June this year. The results may serve also the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor. In the future, Austria and Italy could organize something similar or participate in the capacity of observers in the V4 Group meetings.

30. Within the discussion, Mr. H. Adelsberger informed the meeting that several studies were elaborated in Austria in the past, but some of them in the German language only. He assumed that their translation or at least their abstract in English would be possible.

31. Mr. R. Ferazza supported an idea to prepare the list of existing studies, but mentioned that a study describing the big potential of the Corridor (impacts on other regions like Russia, India or China) was not elaborated up to now and was missing.

#### **Other Business**

32. On invitation of Mr. P. Santarius from the Union for Development of the Moravian-Silesian Region, the Steering Committee decided to hold its next meeting during the Conference TRANSPORT 2007 in Ostrava on 19 November 2007. The representatives of all countries involved are kindly invited to participate in this meeting.

#### **Discussion and final conclusions**

33. Summarizing the discussion, the Chairman stated that we had a more realistic picture of the status of the Corridor VI, especially of its south-western part now. The discussion confirmed the interest of participating countries to extend the corridor towards the Adriatic.

34. On behalf of all participants, Mr. W. Zarnoch, the Chairman extended thanks and expressions of high appreciation to the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Government and Chamber of Commerce in Trieste for hosting the meeting as well as to the organizers led by Mr. C. Fortuna for its excellent preparation including an interesting technical programme.

Marian Hantak  
For the PETC VI Secretariat

Wojciech Żarnoch  
Chairman of PETC VI