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European Commission / The World Bank



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IFI Advisory Group – Working Group Meeting on Transport
April 14, 2008
Chairman's Conclusions

The Transport Working Group of the IFI Advisory Group (IFI-AG) met for the second time on April 14, 2008. There was a very productive atmosphere and a wide participation of sector experts from each of the IFIs. This coordination will help to ensure – in an environment of high demand and limited fiscal space- that projects of highest priority are able to obtain the required financing.

The following conclusions were reached:

- Participants took note of the Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment (TINA) for Turkey. It is possible that the group will take a more active role in future discussions on Turkey, to help develop a project pipeline with further investments supported by appropriate studies.
- Concerning the priorities of SEETO in developing the MAP 2009-2013, participants agreed to help improve the data collection process on projects by cross checking information submitted to SEETO by the participating countries. Participants also re-emphasized the importance of “soft measures” in the development of the MAP, which will be a particular focus of the next SEETO Steering Committee meeting.
- Participants were provided with a useful update on railways and road safety in SEE. The European Commission invited participants to provide written comments on the Terms of Reference of the proposed Working Group on road safety, which aims to transfer best practices, on prevention measures and data collection, from the EU to SEE.
- Concerning the transport sector in Kosovo, the meeting took note of a World Bank presentation and agreed that the draft sector paper to be tabled at the donor's conference in July should reflect a three year program to align to the timeframe of the MTEF. Participants also concurred on the need for the authorities to deal with a backlog on maintenance of road and rail infrastructure (where appropriate), the need for proper phasing for road development and the possible need for external project management and supervision to assist in the short to medium term in the light of capacity constraints and institutional weakness.
- Following a presentation made by USAID and the Sava River Commission, participants welcomed the high level of commitment that the countries of the region demonstrate towards river transport. Members of the group look forward to the results of the new feasibility study and next steps, some of which may be supported by the Infrastructure Projects Facility (IPF).
- There was broad support for the proposed Work Program of the Group, including for a further series of DG TREN brokered bilateral meetings with specific countries, as follows: Serbia (focus on inland waterways), Montenegro (Route IV); Croatia (railway sector); Albania (TBC)

The Transport working group will meet two to three times a year. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2008.