

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Twenty-first session
Geneva, 8-9 September 2008

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STEERING
COMMITTEE OF THE PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR VI,
OSTRAVA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC
19 NOVEMBER 2007**

PARTICIPATION AND VENUE

1. The eighth meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the Pan-European Transport Corridor (PETC) VI took place in the Atom hotel, Ostrava, Czech Republic on 19 November 2007. Representatives of the member countries of the extended existing Corridor VI, Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, and of the European Commission - DG TREN participated in the meeting. The representative from Italy advised that he was not in position to attend the meeting. An Observer from Hungary, representative of PETC IV, X as well as of the Amber Road Cities Association and the Union for the Development of the Moravian-Silesian Region also participated. The secretariat was represented by the Project Manager of the TEM PCO. The list of participants is attached to these minutes as annex 1.

SITE VISIT OF OSTRAVA–SVINOV RAILWAY STATION

2. Before the SC meeting started, all attendees had been invited by the host to participate in visiting the site of a newly-reconstructed railway station in Ostrava-Svinov on Corridor VI, where they visited its management centre from which all the movements of goods and passenger trains in the region are followed and managed. This facility has substantially improved quality and safety of services offered.

3. In his response, Mr. W. Zarnoch (Poland), the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Pan-European Transport Corridor VI, expressed on behalf of all participants his thanks to the organizers of this site visit. Afterwards, all the participants in the site visit returned by bus to the conference room in the Atom hotel in Ostrava.

OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. Mr. W. Zarnoch opened the meeting, welcomed and introduced its participants and informed them about the programme. He also extended his thanks to Mr. P. Santarius, the host representing the Union for the Development of the Moravian-Silesian Region as well as to the organizers of International Conference "Transport 2007". Mr. W. Zarnoch stressed that by organizing the Corridor VI SC meeting for the 5th time in Ostrava in connection with the International Transport Conference, a nice tradition was created where "decision makers" may share their knowledge and experience with experts from practice.

5. The agenda of the meeting, introduced by its Chairman and attached as annex 2 to these minutes, was approved.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE TEN-T

6. Mr. I. Gheivelis (EC DG TREN) presented the latest developments of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), introduced the TEN-T objectives and priority projects and made reference to the results of HLG II of EC chaired by Ms. de Palacio. He also informed about the EC policy and planned activities in the near future and admitted that the implementation of Axes represented a much more complex problem than the implementation of Corridors and that it would be a long-term task especially. He also noted that EC intends to formulate the rules on how to promote, finance and implement Axes using the experience from Corridors. Mr. I. Gheivelis also underlined the necessity of improved dialogue between the EU and non-EU countries along the Axes.

7. As far as the TEN-T development was concerned, he informed the meeting that DG TREN intends to start a study in 2008, the results of which might be a basement for a future network revision, probably in 2010. One of its goals is to prepare the updated maps and to promote transport as a more environmentally-friendly sector. He underlined the importance of so-called "horizontal issues" focused, for example, on ameliorative actions at border crossings.

8. In reaction to Mr. Gheivelis's presentation, Mr. Zarnoch appreciated the information the participants of the meeting received.

RESULTS OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE PETC AND AREAS OF COORDINATION GROUP, BRUSSELS 24 OCTOBER 2007

9. This item was introduced by Mr. Zarnoch, who mentioned that the meeting was chaired by the recently-appointed Director of DG TREN Directorate B - Transeuropean Networks, Energy and Transport, Mr. J. Scheele. Mr. Scheele started with by informing the meeting of issues related to the extension of major Axes of the TEN-T network to the neighbouring countries and future methods of coordination and integration of existing structures.

10. Mr. Scheele further reported about the decision of DG TREN to create 4 working groups, whose representatives made short presentations on selected topics. At first, Mr. Zarnoch presented

“Differences of approach inside and outside the EU”, then Mr. H. Adelsberger introduced “Optimum geographical coverage”, Ms. B. Wunderlich delivered a lecture on “Promotion of non-infrastructure measures” and, finally, Mr. G. Patsiavos made a presentation on “Strengthening of cooperation and monitoring”.

11. In the discussion about the form of document describing the cooperation of countries involved in “the Axes”, Mr. Scheele emphasized that a more binding document (Agreement) would be more appropriate, but due to its time consuming preparation each form of cooperation document was welcome. For this reason, it will be continued with a Memorandum of Understanding and a more binding document will be accepted for individual projects only.

12. Mr. Gheivelis emphasized that for the implementation of Axes, all the existing structures and organizations which might support it like CEETO or TRASECA would be used.

13. Mr. Zarnoch noted that though the implementation of Axes has a lot in common with the implementation of Corridors, this task would be much more complex and would represent a big challenge for the EU as well as for the involved countries.

PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS IN CORRIDOR VI (ROAD, RAIL)

14. After a short introduction of this item by Mr. Zarnoch, the representatives of Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic presented brief reports on Corridor VI present status and future plans, separately first for road and then for rail infrastructure. As only 5 months had passed from the 7th SC meeting in Trieste, where these items were discussed in detail, there were not too many changes.

15. Mr. M. Rolla (Poland) made a presentation on the Polish part of the road corridor. The preparation and construction works on the A1 motorway have continued according to the plan. The double carriageway section Bielsko Biala-Cieszyn will be finished this year by putting into operation its last section (bypass of Skoczow). Reconstruction of the road Zywiec-Zwardon (SK), having partly expressway parameters will be terminated in 2008. Reconstruction of the section Bielsko Biala-Zywiec will commence after 2008. Mr. Rolla remarked that the construction of the A1 motorway of Corridor VI is a main priority of his Government and all construction works should be completed by the end of 2010.

16. Mr. P. Vujtech from the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic informed about the progress of construction works on the D 47 motorway, where a substantial part was completed this year as well as on expressway R 48. Responding to the question of Mr. H. Adelsberger regarding the environmental aspects of preparation of the Brno–Vienna motorway connecting the Czech Republic with Austria, he informed about the present status of plans and works.

17. Ms. E. Dulebova (Slovakia) from Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications described the situation in preparation and the construction of the motorway from Zilina towards the border with the Czech Republic in Svrčinovec and border with Poland in Skalite. The main

conclusion of her presentation was that works continue in accordance with plan and the Agreement signed between the relevant Slovak and Polish Ministries.

18. In his presentation, Mr. A. Bartoszewski from the Polish Railway Lines informed the meeting about the main activities on the Corridor VI railway (Warsaw–Gdynia). The reconstruction of border sections to the Czech Republic (Zebrzydowice) will start after 2008 as well as to Slovakia (Zwardoń/Skalite). In reaction to this information, Mr. Zarnoch recommended to consider possible acceleration of works as the quality of track in both sections is much worse than in the neighbouring countries. This proposal was supported by Mr. T. Wimroither, who stressed that Corridor VI in Poland fulfils the criteria of Class C only (20t per axle), while class D with axle load 22,5 t would be desirable for efficient goods transport. In conclusion the Chairman added that the Polish party should consider again the possibility of acceleration modernization of the section modernized E-65 Katowice-Zebrzydowice to obtain cohesion with the already modernized section of the same line on Czech territory and improving capacity of the Zwardoń/Skalite border crossing at the Polish side.

19. Mr. J. Kusnir from the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic underlined in his presentation that the Czech Republic have completed the construction works along the Corridor VI and now focuses its attention on reconstruction of selected railway stations (Breclav, Prerov, Ostrava and Bohumin).

20. Ms. A. Bumbalova from the Slovak Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications focused her presentation on railways in Slovakia, where the upgrading of the railway section Zilina-Cadca continues according to plan. All construction works, split into three phases, will be completed in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

21. Mr. Zarnoch, summarizing the presentations of representatives of railways stressed that 80% of the total Corridor VI length was situated in Poland and expressed the hope that all works would be finished by 2015 at the latest.

22. At the end of this item, Mr. M. Hantak presented photos from the technical trip to the port and logistic centre in Trieste made during the 7th SC meeting of Corridor VI in Trieste on 22 June 2007.

APPROACH OF CORRIDOR VI TO POLISH PORTS

23. Mr. R. Toczek introduced in his presentation the activities of the Amber Road Cities Association (ARCA) and kindly asked to consider shifting of the existing northern end of the Corridor VI, i.e. motorway A1 to Gdynia port. Such extension for about of 40 km would be very beneficial for the development of the whole region, especially for the cities Gdynia, Sopot and Gdansk.

24. Mr. Rolla, representing General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways (GDDKiA) in Poland indicated that due to extensive business activities along the originally selected alignment the proposed extension might not fulfil motorway parameters.

25. Mr. Zarnoch recommended first to provide a detailed investigation of this proposal within the GDDKiA, as this represented an internal Polish matter, to prepare in cooperation with the Ministry of Infrastructure a standpoint on this proposal and inform the President of Gdynia about it.

STATUS AND FUTURE ACTIONS ON BALTIC – ADRIATIC CORRIDOR

26. At the beginning of his contribution, Mr. Adelsberger appreciated Messrs. Toczek's and Hantak's presentations as they introduced both ends of the extended Corridor VI and stressed the importance of close cooperation of all involved countries. He recommended promoting in future the extension of Priority Project No. 23, not the Corridor VI. He further informed about the present bottlenecks, especially on rail connections near Semmering and Graz, which might be solved by the implementation of the ambitious "Koralbahn Project". He proposed inviting closer cooperation not only among cities and regions along Corridor VI, but also other countries, for the benefit of "the refurbishment" of the former Amber Road (Finland, Sweden).

27. In his response, Mr. Zarnoch reminded that a strict selection of projects was needed, as in the past HLG I chaired by Mr. K V. Miert only accepted 30 % projects from all the proposed. For this reason, it needed to possess strong arguments and should start with a study and formulate their recommendations as to its conclusions. Such a study should be led by Austria and Italy and regions from both countries should possibly be involved.

28. Mr. Adelsberger confirmed that he fully agreed with the idea to elaborate a study and that Austria would support it. He noted that in February/March 2008, the results of Baltic-Adriatic Landbridge study were expected and could also be used for this purpose.

INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES IN THE OTHER PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

29. Ms. E. Kramer (Hungary) presented information on the status and progress of the Hungarian rail and road network along PETCs. She appreciated as successful especially the development on Corridor V between Budapest and Rijeka (Croatia), which would enable the motorway connection of both cities in 2008 and introduced a newly-opened motorway section near the Balaton lake.

30. Mr. Adelsberger informed the meeting about Austria's contribution to the implementation of the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor, the latest developments on Corridor IV and successful completion of the missing motorway section Kittsee-Parndorf (on Vienna-Bratislava route), recently put into operation.

31. As Corridor VI crosses Corridors II and III on the Polish territory and touches also Corridor I, the Polish representatives were kindly asked to prepare concise information about the progress on those Corridors and report on it at the next SC meeting.

WORKING PLAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE SECRETARIAT

32. The Working programme of the Steering Committee for 2008, which was distributed to all participants at the beginning of the meeting, was introduced item by item by Mr. Zarnoch. The main operational issues were: common inspection of the road part of Polish-Czech cross-border sections and report with conclusions on infrastructure development in the Baltic-Adriatic Corridor outside Corridor VI.

33. The Working Programme of the secretariat for 2008 was introduced similarly item-by-item by Mr. Hantak. After a short discussion and clarifications, both programmes were approved by the participants.

REFLECTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

34. Mr. Wimroither made an interesting presentation on the topic “Reflections on International Co-operation in the field of Corridor Management at OBB Railnet Austria Inc. – Possibilities for its better Utilization”. His presentation as well as the other ones, delivered during the meeting and given at disposal to the secretariat, will be attached to the Minutes on a CD and mailed to participants.

DISCUSSION AND FINAL CONCLUSIONS

35. Mr. Zarnoch in his summing up thanked all participants for their active participation in the meeting and evaluated the cooperation and development along the Corridor VI as very good. The initiative of the EC focused on Axes had practically no influence on Corridor VI.

OTHER BUSINESS

36. The Chairman indicated that the SC meeting of Corridor VI would probably be organized again next year in Ostrava on the occasion of the Conference “Transport 2008”, but the meeting would be ready to select another place or time when invited.

37. At the end of the meeting and on behalf of all participants, Mr. Zarnoch, extended thanks and expressions of high appreciation to the Ministry of Transport, the Czech Government and the Union for the Development of the Moravian–Silesian Region for hosting the meeting as well as to the organizers led by Mr. P. Santarius for its excellent preparation.

Marian Hantak
For the PETC VI Secretariat

Wojciech Żarnoch
Chairman of PETC VI

Annexes: 2+1 CD
