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Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF THE PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AND AREAS

**EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 10th ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AND AREAS
CO-ORDINATORS GROUP**

Brussels, 7 February 2007

STATUS OF THE PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS AND AREAS

Corridor I: An important investment programme in Via Baltica for 2000-06 is close to the end. Important projects have been implemented in the Baltic States. Difficulties to prepare National Strategic Programmes, since Russia and Belarus take sometimes decisions which have an impact on the traffic flows. For Rail Baltica, Lithuania and Poland Signed MoU to identify cross-border point and sections. Construction of rail line with European gauge started near Kaunas.

Corridor II: There is progress in infrastructure on the Corridor. The Corridor is extended to Yekaterinburg. Problems on border crossings exist. Cooperation between Russia and Belarus does not exist. Efforts to persuade the authorities to create rest areas with sanitary installations for lorry drivers.

Corridor III: A detailed presentation of the programme, activities and the objectives of the Steering Committee and the new Secretariat was given. Particular efforts to promote solutions of border-crossing problems and organisation of an inspection of sites in Poland.

Corridor IV: Efforts for cooperation between Corridors IV, VII, X as well as VIII and V. Construction will start in two important projects, namely the Danube bridge in Vidin-Calafat and a tunnel under the Bosphorus. A number of studies have been completed recently concerning the Corridor, on infrastructures, security in parking areas and cadastres are produced for ports and airports.

Corridor V: Important initiatives for the promotion of the missing link between Trieste and Divaca. Creation of an Intergovernmental Commission between Italy and Slovenia and execution of a feasibility study for the new cross-border rail link .

Corridor VI: Works are going on in many parts of the road and rail Corridor in Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia . Two Steering Committee meetings have been organised in 2006 in Graz and in Ostrava. In October 2006 A Letter of Intention was signed in Luxembourg by the Ministers of the countries involved for the extension of the road and rail Corridor to the Adriatic Sea (Venezia) and further to Bologna.

Corridor VII: Necessity to harmonise the legal framework concerning inland navigation. Also important to develop Motorways of Sea. The real bottleneck on the Danube is Vilshofen-Straubing. In Vienna-Bratislava the approval of the EIA is expected soon. Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia indicated that they will implement projects on the Danube financed by the Cohesion Fund. The total amount for projects on the Danube is estimated at 1, 3 bn €

Corridor VIII: Studies for rail missing links and border crossings have been completed. Assessment of actual situation and suggested priorities are shared by all countries involved. A study for roads accessibility to the ports of Durres, Vlore, Varna and Burgas will be completed in 2007.

Corridor IX North section: This concerns only Finland and Russia. The High Speed Rail Helsinki-St. Petersburg is expected by 2008 and will reduce the travel time from 5,5 to 3,5 hours. Russia is planning the construction of a motorway St. Petersburg-Moscow as a toll road. Traffic volumes are increasing for road and rail. Efforts to reduce cross-border procedures are taking place.

Corridor IX Middle section: A multimodal investment programme of a total amount of 1,3 billion € is under implementation in Lithuania, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Main objectives are the upgrading of railways in the access area to Klaipeda and Kaliningrad and the construction of cross-border points and stations.

Corridor IX South section: Rehabilitation works on the roads are on-going in Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria. The Greek section is completed as a motorway. Upgrading works are necessary for the rail. Only in two sections in Romania, max speeds can reach 140-150 km/h . The bridge in Giurgiu is upgraded.

Corridor X: Important developments for cross-border cooperation, with the signature of a Protocol by ministers in Corfu, the organisation of a working group in Athens and the opening of a new rail border station between Serbia and Bulgaria. National plans for motorways have been established in Serbia and FYROM containing 7 projects on the Corridor. Some rail projects are also included in the SEETO action plan 2006-2010.

Barents-Euro-Arctic Transport Area (BEATA) : The Finnish presidency is focussing to the support and monitoring of the study "Sustainable transport in the Barents region" and is planning to formulate concrete recommendations for improved cooperation. A railway gauge width changing system between Sweden and Finland has been in commercial operation since one year.
