



## En route for a faster crossing

### CARDS

#### Country

Serbia and Montenegro

#### Implementation period

2002-2004

#### Funding

€10 million

#### Results

Modernisation of the Horgos border point will mean more efficient customs procedures and a faster passage for passengers and freight alike

#### Coordinator

Posta Granicni Prelax  
2441 Horgos, Serbia

#### Contact person

Mr Geoffrey Clark  
Supervising Engineer  
Tel: +381 24 792 628  
Fax +381 24 792 370  
GSM: +381 63 8923 689  
bceomserbia@ptt.yu

#### Partners

Horgos E-75 Consortium  
(Melyepito/Kesz, Hungary),  
BCEOM (France) and the CIP  
(SCG) consortium

### Improving border controls

The E-75 highway, which runs from Germany to Greece, is one of the key trade routes through south-eastern Europe. However, it must be able to withstand the pressure of an ever-increasing volume of freight and passenger traffic following the accession of ten new Member States to the EU in May 2004.

### Form an orderly queue

The Horgos crossing point, on the northern border of Serbia with Hungary, simply cannot cope with the current flow of people and vehicles. Built in 1930, and extended several times since then, the border point is still inadequate. Often at peak travel times delays of up to four hours and tailbacks several kilometres long are common for drivers. In addition, the lack of modern customs facilities is hindering the essential inspection of trucks and the goods they carry. The situation has greatly improved on the Hungarian side of the border where a new terminal was funded by the EU's Phare programme in 2002. But going in and out of Serbia remains a long and tedious procedure for many travellers.

### Tracking progress

Work began on site in June 2003 to integrate the border crossing complex, which is 200 kilometres away from both Budapest and Belgrade, into the existing motorway infrastructure.



However, the work was delayed in the early stages by the discovery of unexploded World War I bombs buried in the vicinity. Now back on track, the aim of the €10 million Horgos project is to revamp the border crossing site, which will comprise 19 new buildings on a 14-hectare site and build a stretch of road linking the main highway.

The main purpose of the complex will be two-fold: the control of passenger traffic and goods will be managed using modern customs facilities and technologies in distinct entry and departure zones. In addition, there will be a special independent terminal which will be designated for the inspection of trucks and freight, with special attention being paid to livestock and plants in a concerted effort to control the spread of disease across borders.



### **Moving in the right direction**

The first challenge was to clear 50,000 cubic metres of earth to build the embankments on the site to support the new stretch of highway and a heavy truck terminal. The next stage will be building the road and the facilities – the Horgos crossing will be constructed as an ‘island’ with sufficient lanes to carry passenger traffic, freight, buses and other heavy goods vehicles through the border control area.

Once the main facilities are in place, the Serbian authorities will be responsible for ‘plugging’ the site into the water, sewage and energy systems.

Successful completion of the Horgos border crossing project will mean a significant improvement in transport and trade links between the north-eastern part of Serbia with western Europe and ultimately much farther afield to the Near and Far East, Asia and North Africa.