





Public consultation on the extension of the major Trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions

Brussels, 5 April 2005

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EU – South-East Europe Interconnection



The present accession - or rather reunification - of Europe is unique in that this and the next phase will move the borders of the Union further into mainland continental Europe, rather then to seasides, a kind of "end of the road" - as in case of recent enlargement. Several new borders open up for co-operation therefore networks should develop to facilitate organic development. This demand puts pressure on concerted and synchronised cross **border** development of infrastructure – above all transport.



EU – South-East Europe Interconnection



If one looks at the new map of Europe it is conspicuous, how South East European or West Balkan countries are "embedded" into the Union. This will be even more valid when Bulgaria, Romania and also Croatia will join the community. It is the prime economic interest of Greece and Southern Italy to have direct and quick link to Central and Northern Europe, but also for Scandinavian countries to access Central and Southern European regions through major trans-frontiers transport axes. Such North-South corridors do net yet exist in Central and Eastern Europe.





The re-united/enlarged Europe







The Danube-Drava-Sava Euroregion





EU – South-East Europe Interconnection



The European Union is starting accession talks with Croatia within weeks and this occasion makes revisiting relations including infrastructure links between the parties even more timely and due. The situation study and potential connection between the future transport network of the EU and that of the West Balkan or South-East Europe including Croatia is on the agenda with decisions of long term impact are at stake now.



EU – South-East Europe Interconnection



The two accession countries **Bulgaria and Romania**were, while **Croatia was not** represented in the TEN-T
High Level Group led by Mr. Van Miert, thus the mutual
interests of both the European Union and Croatia **could**not be considered in the recommendations and later
in the regulation on TEN-T including a list of priority
projects. The present initiative offers an opportunity to
do so before the next review due in 2009.

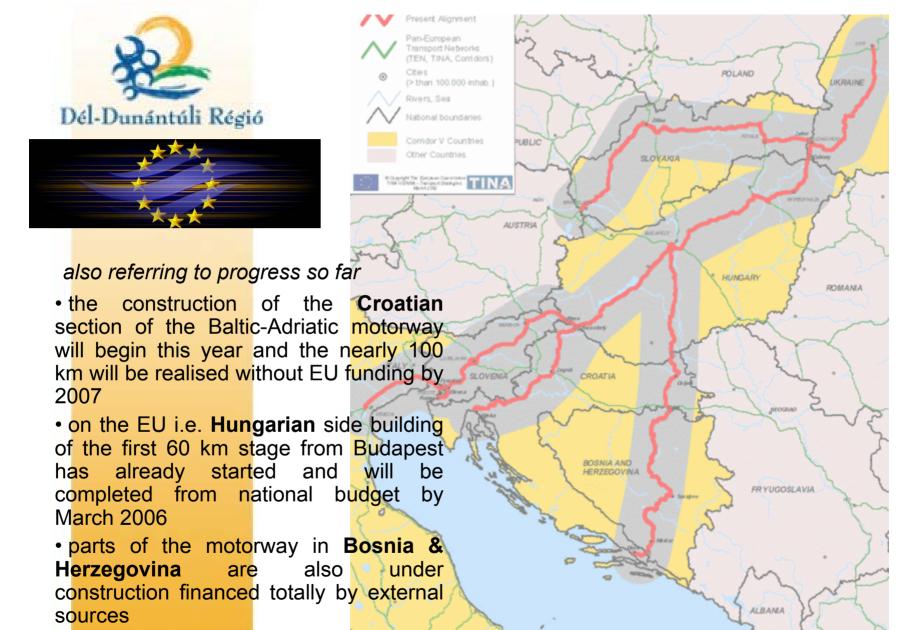


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Considering that

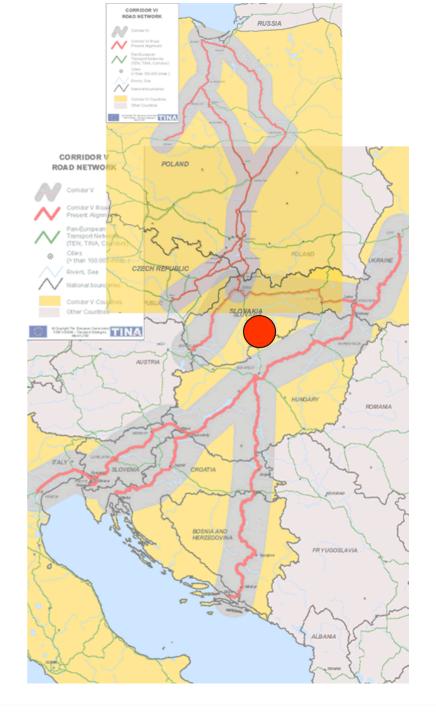
- a new transport axis between the Baltic and Adriatic sea connecting six countries by direct link is of high importance for both the EU and all countries involved
- this status has been acknowledged in an amendment to the TEN-T priority project list supported by substantial majority in the European Parliament on 13/03/04
- the Hungarian section of the new axis is part of TEN-T, its extension follows pan-European corridor V/C Ploče-Budapest clear recognition of high European priority
- the realisation of this new motorway provides an absolutely vital link for Bosnia & Herzegovina also, opening access in 2 directions
 the Adriatics & mainland Europe





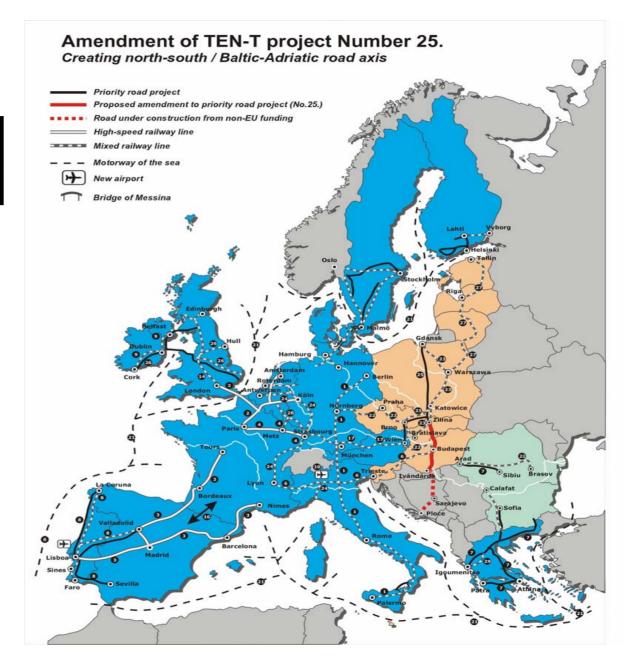
it should be stated, that

in simultaneous
 construction and from
 predominantly non-EU
 financing the proposed
 Budapest-Ploče road axis
 may be the very first
 realisation of the
 extension of TEN-T to the
 West Balkan – a very
 Quick Project indeed!











EU – South-East Europe Interconnection



Thus the undersigned public authorities

- recommend to reinforce the high interest status of the Ploče-Budapest road/rail axis,
- propose to include it into the extended TEN-Transport priority project list, and
- suggest to declare the development of the harbour of Ploče of high TEN-T priority

Discussed and approved by

Danube-Drava-Sava Euregion



South Transdanubian Regional Development Council





