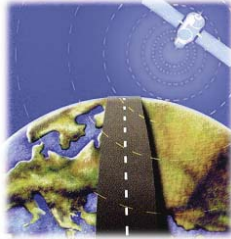


GREEK MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
AND COMMUNICATIONS
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR
PAN-EUROPEAN CORRIDOR X

TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR
PAN-EUROPEAN CORRIDOR X



Athens, March 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Thielmann,

In the following we present the official position of the Chair and the Technical Secretariat of the Steering Committee for Pan-European Transport Corridor X, concerning the implementation of the priority axes defined by the High Level Group for the extension of the major Trans-European transport axes to the neighboring countries and regions, in the framework of the Commission's public consultation:

1. Regarding the outcome of the High Level Group, we are in total alignment with the five identified axes, as well as with the horizontal priorities dealt within the relevant report.
2. The involvement of the private sector in the financing of the axes and the horizontal measures can be considered a new way of funding, apart from the national funds, E.U. structural funds and international financing institutions that were used until recently. PPP schemes can be considered a good example of this practice and it is already applied with success in several EU member states.
3. For an efficient and effective project ensuring coherence and a strong coordination framework, a more binding document is necessary. More specifically, the Energy Community Treaty could be extended to the transport sector.
4. The structure of the authorities responsible for implementing an Action Plan per axis, stemming from a Treaty or any other form of binding document – since it is not decided yet – should incorporate the existing structures of the Pan European Corridors. It is essential that we take advantage of the experience, know-how, the cumulative data and the studies that have already been realized in most sections of the new priority axes.

Therefore, we propose that a proper mechanism for each priority axis should consist of the following bodies:

- **A Steering Group:** Political body consisted of representatives of the authorised Ministries of the countries participating in each priority Axis and the European Commission, responsible for the implementation of the Binding Document.
- **A Regulatory/ Administrative Unit:** Regulatory, administrative and technical unit, co-financed by the European Commission and the participating countries, responsible for the administrative and secretarial support of the Steering Group, the coordination of the activities to implement the approved by the Steering Group Action Plan of the respective priority Axis and the regulation and coordination of the activities of sectorial Technical Secretariats.
- **Sectorial Technical Secretariats:** Their actions are regulated and coordinated by the relevant Regulatory/ Administrative Unit and they are financed by the budget allocated to the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit, donors and ad-hoc contributions, responsible for the implementation of the action plan on a Corridor/ Sector of the priority Axis.

Sectorial Technical Secretariats would be existing structures of Pan-European Corridors included in the priority Axis and new structures for the new Corridors/ Sectors defined in a priority Axis.

To this end, we strongly believe that the integration of the existing structures of the Pan-European Corridors, which has already been, in most cases, proved effective, supported by a more binding legal instrument such as a Treaty or an Agreement would bring immediate results. Attached to this letter please find a more detailed description of the mechanism we propose for the implementation of the priority axes.

Yours sincerely,



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Prof. Christos Taxiltaris
Scientific Coordinator of the Technical
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**PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDOR X
CHAIR AND TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

***Proposed Structure of the Priority Axes identified by the High Level
Group for the extension of the major trans-European transport axes
to the neighbouring countries and regions***

March 2006

The Chair and the Technical Secretariat of Pan-European Corridor X propose the following structure for each priority Axis:

- a) Steering Group; political body consisted of representatives of the authorised Ministries of the countries participating in the priority Axis and the European Commission, responsible for the implementation of the Binding Document¹.
- b) Regulatory/ Administrative Unit; regulatory, administrative and technical unit, financed by the European Commission and the participating countries, responsible for the administrative and secretarial support of the Steering Group, the coordination of the activities to implement the approved by the Steering Group Action Plan of the priority Axis and the regulation and coordination of the activities of Sectorial Technical Secretariats.
- c) Sectorial Technical Secretariats²; sectorial technical units, financed by the budget allocated to the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit, donors and ad-hoc contributions, responsible for the implementation of the action plan on a Corridor/ Sector of the priority Axis. Their actions are regulated and coordinated by the relevant Regulatory/ Administrative Unit.

In the following the operation mechanism of the structures proposed is described in detail (see also diagram in ANNEX A).

A. Steering Group

The Steering Group of the Axis shall be composed by high level delegates (normally senior public servants) of the participating – in the Axis – countries and of the European Commission's responsible Directorates (DG TREN, TAXUD, External Relations etc.)

The Steering Group shall coordinate the joint work under the Binding Document.

The Steering Group shall meet as necessary, at least twice a year. Chairmanship should be rotated and the order should be defined in the Binding Document.

¹ The type of the binding document (e.g. Treaty, International Agreement, Convention etc.) for the extension of the trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions is yet to be decided.

² Sectorial Technical Secretariats: existing structures under the Steering Committees of Pan-European Corridors included in the priority Axis and new structures for the new Corridors defined in a priority Axis.

Representatives from the International Financing Institutions, social partners, the private sector, the concerned Corridors, other Axes, other institutions/ organisations and delegates from neighbouring countries could participate as observers.

The Steering Group could consider creating sub- working groups for specific tasks in order to increase the potential for achieving goals of the Binding Document.

The Steering Group shall regularly (at least annually) report on its work to the participants and to the European Commission Directorate General for Transport and Energy.

B. Regulatory/ Administrative Unit

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit of the Axis shall be responsible for the administrative and secretarial support and the preparation of the meetings of the Steering Group.

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit should be responsible for the regulation and coordination of the activities of the Sectorial Technical Secretariats and management of information resources.

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit should be responsible for planning and the composition of the proposal of the Axis Action Plan, allocated also per Corridor/ Sector, for approval by the Steering Group. It should also be responsible for the composition of reports of the results of analysis of the Axis.

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit should maintain a Database for the Axis, where input should be required from and obtained by each Corridor's Sectorial Technical Secretariat.

It should secure the compatibility of the Database with the DG TREN Database, to which it should submit annually the updated data and information.

National experts/ officers for direct cooperation with the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit shall be appointed by each national Steering Group representative.

i. Objectives and Scope of Work of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit

The **overall objective** of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit shall be to facilitate the participating countries in the development of the Axis in the framework of the implementation of the Binding Document for the extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries and regions.

Specific objectives of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit are to:

- prepare multi-annual work plans for the development of the Axis as a whole and per Corridor/ Sector;
- prepare and maintain an information system for use by decision makers and other bodies involved;

- provide a platform for efficient use of funds and know-how provided by public and private sources;
- administrate the EC funds and allocate the appropriate funds to the Sectorial Technical Secretariats

The **scope of work** of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit (to be agreed by the Steering Group) shall be to:

- provide administrative and secretarial support to the Steering Group;
- organise and coordinate activities to implement the Binding Document;
- regulate and coordinate activities of the Sectorial Technical Secretariats;
- collect, analyse and disseminate information on the Axis;
- plan and review the development of the Axis;
- monitor the implementation of the plan; and
- report to the Steering Group and Directorate General for Transport and Energy of the European Commission.

ii. Work Programme of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit shall be a permanent structure to support the Steering Group of the Axis that:

- organizes the Steering Group's meetings and coordinates the activities among the representatives of the various transport sectors;
- centrally follows all studies directly or indirectly relevant to the Axis, and establishes a studies' archive, which maintains continuously and presents the results of the studies to the Steering Group;
- establishes and centrally maintains a database with technical operational and financial/ economic aspects of the Axis, and with information on projects' implementation process;
- centrally assesses the need for the elaboration of supplementary studies for the development of the Axis;
- examines various means for the optimization of the operation of the Axis, such as interoperability, border crossing facilitation, road pricing, etc.;
- cooperates with other initiatives in the region of influence of the Axis (e.g. South East Europe Core Network) and with the other priority Axes to promote their synergy and exchange information on best practices;

- cooperates with the participating countries for the coordination of actions for the development of the Axis;
- supports the participating countries and contributes to the creation of favourable conditions – from technical point of view – for the involvement of International Financial Institutions and the private sector in the development of the Axis;
- proposes objectives, action- and time- plans and indicators for the assessment of the development of the Axis as a whole and by Corridor/ Sector for approval by the Steering Group;
- disseminates the results of the work of the Steering Committee and the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit of the Axis and promotes public relations; and
- establishes a dedicated website.

iii. Personnel of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit shall be manned by a Manager, a secretary, and experts such as transport advisors/ specialists, economists, specialists on Information Technology (IT), Databases (DB) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS); external experts could be used for ad-hoc activities.

The exact profile and duties of the personnel shall be further defined in the Terms of Reference of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit.

Working language shall be English.

iv. Regulatory/ Administrative Unit Information System – Supply and Exchange of Information

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit shall maintain an efficient and effective information system and website accessible to the participants and other users approved by the Steering Group and to public respectively.

v. Financing of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit

The Regulatory/ Administrative Unit shall be funded mainly by the European Commission and also with the annual contribution of the participating countries secured by the national budgets, where the exact amount of this contribution could be set accordingly to the proportion of the annual cost of projects of a country that the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit will prepare fiches for to the overall annual cost of projects in all participating countries to the Axis included in the annual action plan.

Donations and other contributions for ad-hoc activities are also possible, which shall not be considered as part of the mandated budget contribution of the participants.

C. Sectorial Technical Secretariats

Sectorial Technical Secretariats could be assigned for each Corridor/ Sector included in the Axis. Apart from the existing Technical Secretariats of the remaining (after the revision of the priority axes by the EC) Pan-European Corridors, establishment of new Technical Secretariats could be necessary for supplementary Sectors.

Sectorial Technical Secretariats responsible for a remaining Pan-European Corridor included in more than one priority Axes should work simultaneously with the Regulatory/ Administrative Units of the respective Axes.

National experts/ officers appointed by each national Steering Group representative for cooperation with the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit shall also directly and intensively cooperate with the Sectorial Technical Secretariats.

i. Responsibility of the Sectorial Technical Secretariats

The Sectorial Technical Secretariats should be responsible for the implementation of the action plan decided by the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit and approved by the Steering Group, and could propose activities to be included in the following action plan of the Axis (and the Corridor).

ii. Work Programme of the Sectorial Technical Secretariats

The Sectorial Technical Secretariat actions are regulated and coordinated by the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit. More specifically each Sectorial Technical Secretariat:

- ensures the performance of surveys, on-site visits, expertises;
- ensures the identification of the bottlenecks related to the Corridor/ Sector;
- ensures the elaboration of traffic flows forecasting, border crossings delays measurements, socioeconomic, environmental and other ad-hoc studies;
- establishes and maintains a sectorial database, compatible to the Axis Information System with technical operational and financial/ economic aspects of the Corridor/ Sector, and with information on projects' implementation process;
- follows all studies directly or indirectly relevant to the Corridor/ Sector, and establishes a studies' archive, which maintains continuously and presents the results of the studies to the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit;
- submits to the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit documented suggestions for the elaboration of supplementary studies for the development of the respective Corridor/ Sector;
- ensures the examination of the fine tuning of various means for the optimization of the operation of the Corridor/ Sector, such as interoperability, border crossing facilitation, road pricing, etc. in the framework of the Axis as a whole;

- cooperates with other regional initiatives and with the other Sectorial Technical Secretariats to promote their synergy and exchange information on best practices;
- cooperates with the national experts/ officers for the coordination of actions for the development of the respective Corridor/ Sector;
- disseminates the results of the work carried out in the relevant sector of the Priority Axis and promotes public relations; and
- maintains the dedicated to the Corridor/ Sector web pages in the website of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit. Existing per Corridor websites should be abolished.

iii. Personnel of the Sectorial Technical Secretariats

The Sectorial Technical Secretariat shall be manned with personnel respectively to the personnel of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit.

The exact profile and duties of the personnel shall be further defined in the Terms of Reference of the Sectorial Technical Secretariats.

Working language shall be English.

iv. Sectorial Technical Secretariats Information Systems – Supply and Exchange of Information

The Sectorial Technical Secretariats shall maintain compatible, efficient and effective information systems and web pages incorporated in the Information System and the Website of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit and accessible to the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit, the participants and other users approved by the Steering Group and to public respectively.

Participating countries shall be obliged to provide accurate information and data without cost to the Sectorial Technical Secretariats or to external experts on behalf of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit.

Terms and conditions for information and data exchange shall be further defined in the Terms of References of the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit and the Sectorial Technical Secretariats and approved by the Steering Group, as well as the methodology and data exchange format. Real time information and data flow by the Sectorial Technical Secretariats shall be obligatory and could be secured by the establishment of an Internet Geographic Information System.

v. Financing of the Sectorial Technical Secretariats

Financing of the Technical Secretariats is annually distributed by the Regulatory/ Administrative Unit, except in case of approval of additional ad-hoc tasks to a single Sectorial Technical Secretariat.

ANNEX A Indicative organisation of Axes

