

2021 DEVELOPMENTS IN REGARD TO KEY SECTOR POLICIES IN THE AREA OF TRANSPORT

SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

SWG FUNCTIONALITY

- SWG Transport has own **rules of procedure**, but this document is still in the form of draft text and is not formally adjusted to needs and guidelines of the sector group's chair, although a request in that regard was submitted to SEA back in 2018. It is expected for these weaknesses to be addressed with adoption of new rules of procedure, whose finalization includes proposals and suggestions from SWG representatives.

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

- In this regard, **positive step forward** was made in respect to operation of this sector group in the last three years. In 2021, for the first time, **civil society organizations were invited** to the only plenary session held by this sector group, unlike the situation observed in 2019 and 2020 when CSOs did not participate in SWG meetings.

CSO CAPACITY

- **The process for civil society participation** in operation of this sector group needs to be **formalized**, by granting them status of members or observers, and in open and transparent process for selection of SWG members from the ranks of civil society organizations.

EFFECTS FROM SWG WORK

- In 2021, SWG Transport continued its **poor work dynamics** and held only one meeting. Such work dynamics seems **insufficient** in order to monitor track record of implementation action plans for the National Strategy on Transport 2018-2030, to develop strategy documents, relevant development programs and planning documents, to monitor and evaluate achievements, and to propose and take corrective measures.

2019

1 x meeting:

26.09.2019

2021

1 x meeting:

23.06.2021

2020

1 x meeting:

03.07.2020

KEY SECTOR POLITICS

Legislative activities included adoption of the Law on Determining Public Interest and Nominating a Strategic Partner for Implementation of the Infrastructure Construction Project – Corridor 8 and Corridor 10 in RNM

The law, proposed by a group of MPs, ensures implementation of the Memorandum signed by the Government with the consortium Behtel and Enka as strategic investor for construction of motorways Tetovo-Gostivar, Struga-Kjafasan, and Prilep-Bitola. It was adopted in fast-tracked procedure and without public consultations.

AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION

● Law on Treatment of Illegally Constructed Buildings

- amendments were adopted after a failed attempt to adopt new Law on Regulation of the Status of Illegally Constructed Buildings that should have allowed legalization of illegally constructed buildings in the period from 3 March 2011 to 1 January 2021.

● Law on Road Traffic Security

- purpose of amendments is to ensure regular implementation of driving license exams under conditions of COVID-19 pandemic.

● Law on Inland Waterway Traffic

- amendments concern inspection supervision over inland waterway traffic and reduction of misdemeanour fines regulated under the law.

● Law on Public Roads

- changes to this law allow for exemptions for distance between state roads and railway tracks.

● Law on Railway System Security

- delayed enforcement of the provision under article 13, paragraph (6) for a period of one year.

● Additions to the Law on Road and Railway Transport of Hazardous Substances

- implied interventions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

INITIATED ACTIVITIES

In December 2021, announcement was published on ENER in relation to start of the process for developing the Law on Civil Aviation, together with the law's draft text. Adoption of new law is justified with incomplete alignment of civil aviation regulations with novelties in standards and recommended practices from the Annexes to the Chicago Convention and accepted EU regulations and directives from the Agreement Establishing the European Common Aviation Area.

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