

**EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association sub-committee on Transport, Environment,
Energy and Regional Development
1st meeting, 16 February 2017 Pristina**

Minutes

The 1st Subcommittee on Transport, Environment, Energy and Regional Development took place on 16 February in Pristina. The meeting was co-chaired by the European Commission (Mrs Mary Teresa Moran) and the Kosovo Ministry for European Integration (Mrs. Anila Statovci-Demaj). The positive contribution of the Kosovo authorities was appreciated, as was the coordinating role of the Ministry of European Integration.

They discussed the developments over the last year in the fields of transport, environment, energy, climate change and regional development. The discussion was held within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) which entered into force in April 2016. In all areas, the Commission and Kosovo agreed on the importance of implementing the priorities of the European Reform Agenda and the Economic Reform Programme.

On the **environment**, in general the discussion was on recent legislative alignment, enforcement and policy development in the sector. The Commission expressed concern about **air quality monitoring** and requested the Kosovo institutions to start real time air quality monitoring and reporting for the whole territory and to implement immediate measures to reduce the level of air pollution. As regards **waste management**, the Commission stressed that the waste master plan needs to be fully implemented and the hazardous waste storage operator to be functional and operational. In the field of **water quality**, the water strategy and action plan needs to be adopted, and the River Basin Authority to be fully operational and functional. On **nature protection**, both parties agreed that Kosovo needs to start preparing the Draft Red Book of Fauna and to adopt the Biodiversity Action Plan for 2016/2020.

Regarding **climate change**, Kosovo still has to introduce the EU legislation to address the impacts of climate change. In addition, both parties agreed that the strategy and action plan on climate change, mainstreamed into other economic sectors, needs to be adopted and implemented. As concerns **transport**, recent legislative and policy developments were discussed. The Commission encouraged Kosovo to continue its efforts to implement the **connectivity reform measures** at national and regional level in order to deliver by the July 2017 Western Balkans Summit in Trieste. While the Commission welcomed the progress made on the core/comprehensive TEN-T extension projects, it called for project planning and project preparation to be strengthened further. The further development of adequate absorption capacities was also underlined as necessary to fully exploit IFI, WBIF, CEF and IPA funds. In addition, both parties have agreed on the need to continue legislative, policy and institutional reforms, including strengthening the independence and capacity of regulatory bodies in the transport sector. In the field of **road transport**, both parties agreed that Kosovo needs to step up institutional, legislative

and enforcement efforts to significantly improve the road safety situation and present concrete measures to that end. Furthermore, Kosovo agreed to complete the regulatory reform in road transport (social rules, access to profession, and access to the international market). As regards **rail transport**, Kosovo was encouraged to continue the reforms in the railway sector and more particularly, efforts towards mutual recognition of train driver licenses, reviewing technical and safety rules, and appointing the railway accident investigator. In regard to the **aviation sector**, Kosovo needs to transpose the *acquis* on working conditions including those on working time into the Law on Labour as well as to adopt the Kosovo aviation strategy. Kosovo raised the issue of digital tachographs and asked for the Commission's assistance to become a member of TACHOnet.

On the **energy sector**, Kosovo has adopted the third energy package compatible legislation and now needs to adopt and implement the secondary legislation. Kosovo has also to eliminate price regulation of generation and end user prices (other than for small enterprises and household customers), and to adopt the Energy Strategy 2017-2026. Kosovo needs to ensure the implementation of the energy connectivity reform measures. Kosovo is not obliged to harmonize the KOSTT Grid code with the ENTSO-E, but it is committed to full harmonisation.

On **energy efficiency**, Kosovo has to adopt the third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and needs to adopt the secondary legislation deriving from the Law on Energy Performance of Buildings. The Commission stressed the importance of Kosovo's increased efforts on use of renewable energy and energy efficiency, including the establishment of a financial support mechanism for financing of energy efficiency.

In terms of **security of supply**, Kosovo has to make a final decision as regards new generation capacity, ownership modalities of TPP Kosovo B and decommissioning the TPP Kosovo A. In addition, Kosovo needs urgently to adopt the Law on Compulsory Oil Stockholding. In regard to **radiation protection and nuclear safety**, Kosovo needs to strengthen the capacity of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Agency, and to prepare a plan for the clean-up of possible depleted uranium sites.

As concerns **regional development**, an inter-ministerial working group for drafting the concept document for regional development has been established and public consultation has taken place, but the Commission emphasised the need to include the EU Office recommendations in the concept document. It was agreed that the document would be recirculated to stakeholders and should be adopted by the end of the second quarter of 2017.