

The European Voice of Freight Logistics and Customs Representatives

Brussels, 30th of March 2010

RE: Draft Treaty establishing the Transport Community between the European Union and the South East European parties

CLECAT represents the interests of freight forwarding, logistics, transport and Customs services at EU level, as such it is the largest umbrella organisation of its kind in the EU. It represents the interests of the vast majority of large, medium and small enterprises, with membership across the European Union and beyond including conspicuous membership in the Balkans. Our members are impartial users of all modes of transport, but they deal exclusively with cargo and for this reason our observations normally do not deal with passengers' issue unless these interact with freight transport. In light of our activities we are pleased to see that the European Union has been drafting a treaty establishing a transport community between the EU and several south east European parties, which will hopefully be signed soon.

CLECAT welcomes and supports the aim to establish a transport community in the field of road, rail, inland waterways and maritime transport as well as the development of an integrated transport market. In our [position paper on the revision of the TEN-T guidelines](#) we have analysed and described what we see as the most important issues that need to be addressed to achieve a functioning European network. We strongly believe that taking our suggestions into account will contribute to ensuring benefits both to the EU Member States and their partners in South East Europe. Most importantly it would contribute to fostering the well functioning and collaboration of the different business communities with beneficial effect on the general population.

All the provisions contained in the draft are generally favourable.

The total number of journey-based permits distributed to the SEE Parties (not exceed 9.000 in total, with a maximum number of permits to be used in the relation with any one EU MS not exceeding 2 000) seems to be well thought through.

CLECAT is of the opinion that the number of permits is appropriate and it will not negatively impact on the competitiveness of either Member States or the South East European parties, to the contrary it may rather allow further integration and help dismantle the trade barriers that many claim still exist.

We acknowledge that such a treaty may have a similar function as an association treaty in the field of transport, thus contributing to paving the way for these countries to become familiar with

the process that may lead to a later accession to the European Union, if they are not part of the accession process already.

In this light we also see this as an important first step to increased harmonisation of European transport rules and closer cooperation with the other parts of Europe.

We are looking forward to further progress in the negotiations and we wish the negotiators to reach good and swift conclusions, possibly later this year. We also would like to offer any assistance that might be needed and would be happy to answer any questions about this paper or any other CLECAT position.