

## 30th Meeting of the Commission for the Karavanks Road Tunnel

13<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Vienna

### The Austrian Delegation

- **Astrid Harz**, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- **Michael Kainz**, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- **Valerie Sanders**, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- **Peter Blumauer**, Federal Ministry of the Interior
- **Christa Bock**, Federal Ministry of Finance
- **Ursula Zechner**, Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
- **Karin Stanger-Herok**, Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
- **Sonja Wiesholzer**, Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
- **Gabriele Lutter**, ASFINAG
- **Rainer Kienreich**, ASFINAG
- **Gernot Brandtner**, ASFINAG
- **Karl Smolle**, Interpreter

### The Slovenian Delegation

- **Jure Leben**, State Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure - Head of Slovenian delegation
- **Zvonko Zavasnik**, Ministry of Infrastructure
- **Jana Lenarčič**, Ministry of Infrastructure
- **Martina Jerman**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Uroš Korošec**, Ministry of Public Administration
- **Janez Kušnik**, DARS
- **Bojan Banfi**, DARS
- **Branka Videtič**, DARS
- **Andreja Pignar Tomanič**, Interpreter

### AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report of the Construction Committee
3. Report of the Operations Committee
4. Toll related issues
5. AOB

### **Ad. 1 – Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission of the Karavanks Road Tunnel was adopted.

### **Ad. 2 – Report of the Construction Committee**

ASFINAG reported that the procedures with regard to Article 7 of the Austrian Road Tunnel Safety Act (STSG) have been completed. The procedures related to water law and the law on waste management are expected to be completed in fall 2017. The construction of the bridge leading to the tunnel entrance on the Austrian side will be completed in time for the start of the construction of the second tube. The preparatory work for the new tube is running at full speed and is expected to be finished by August 2017. The tender process will get started thereafter. Construction work itself will start in January 2018 and will be completed by the end of 2021. After completion of the second tube, a two-year renovation of the first tube will commence. Both tubes are expected to be fully operational by the end of 2023.

The total costs amount to € 316.9 million, € 165.5 m. for the Austrian and € 151.4 m. for the Slovenian side respectively.

DARS reported that the legal procedures on the Slovenian side were almost completed. The tender process would be opened by the end of September; the building permit is expected by August 2017. However, a condition for the building permit is the completion of the land purchase process. As this may need court procedures, the process could be delayed, but the Slovenian side is strongly committed to sticking to the timetable.

**The Intergovernmental Committee took note of the reports by ASFINAG and DARS.**

### **Ad. 3 - Report of the Operations Committee**

The Operations Committee discussed possibilities to improve the traffic flow during peak season, especially how to reach an optimal level of communication between the control points to guarantee the best possible regulation of traffic flow and pace. The Slovenian side tested and installed a thermo scanner. The Committee suggested that the new tube should be equipped with a two-way traffic option in case one tube has to be closed temporarily. Pursuant to the planning and building process, the 2019 date laid down in the EU directive can probably not be met and authorities will be informed accordingly.

Furthermore, possible harmonisations of weekend travel bans in favour of the transport sector were discussed. In view of border controls, DARS and ASFINAG will analyse the situation together and make recommendations. DARS will conduct a major tube exercise in 2017. The traffic signs concerning safety distance will be removed, as they lead to driving errors.

**The Intergovernmental Committee took note of the reports by ASFINAG and DARS.**

#### **Ad. 4 – Toll related issues**

The Austrian side reported that in line with the current tolling system, ASFINAG charges lorries heading south and DARS those heading north. As soon as the new electronic tolling system will be introduced in Slovenia, both companies will charge lorries in both directions but exclusively for the road section of their own state territory. The Slovenian side will inform the Austrian side within the next one or two months about the date, the new system will be operational on. This will either be the previously agreed date of 01.01.2018, or a new (later) date.

#### **Ad. 5 - AOB**

- **Border Control Facilities**

According to Article 6 of the "Treaty about the Karavanks Road Tunnel" and Article 5 of the "Treaty about Buildings and Compounds for border controls in the range of the Karavanks Road Tunnel", the border control facilities are to be maintained by the state on which's territory they are located on. The Slovenian delegation asked the Austrian side to examine, whether the border facilities (buildings) on the Slovenian side of the Tunnel are still needed for border control purposes and therefore have to be maintained, or not. Without further consultation it is unclear to both sides, whether the use and maintenance of the facilities by both sides are still required. The Intergovernmental Commission agrees that a clarification on both sides would be desirable.

**The Intergovernmental Commission agrees to set up a working group that will be tasked with the open questions regarding use and maintenance of the border control facilities. This does not concern regulations about the agreed border control zones at both sides of the Tunnel as laid down in the 1995 Treaty. Both sides will promptly nominate the members of the working group. The Working Group will give an interim report at the next meeting of the Operations Committee due in May, 2017.**

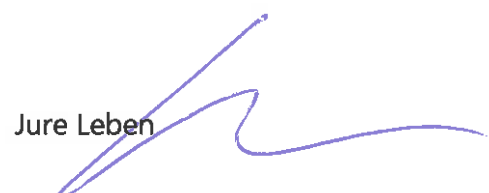
- **Contact Point**

**The Intergovernmental Commission takes note of the study „Festlegung des Kontaktpunktes Trassenabschnitt A11 – Karawanken Autobahn Karawankentunnel / Določitev stične točke za traso odseka A2 Karavanke – Obrežje v predoru Karavanke“.**

- The next meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission will take place at the end of 2017/beginning of 2018.

Vienna, 13th March 2017

  
Astrid Harz

  
Jure Leben