



Roads

Anglo-Spanish consortium to consult Danube Bridge II construction

A consortium between the English companies Scott Wilson Holding and Flint&Neill Partnership and the Spanish company Ibernisa S.A. has been awarded a 60 months consulting contract for the Vidin-Kalafat Danube Bridge, the Transport Minister Plamen Petrov announced. The consortium's activity includes drafting the conceptual design of the bridge, preparing a technical project on the adjacent infrastructure and the tender documentation on the selection of the bridge design and construction companies. The total cost of the works included in the contract is estimated to EUR 5,5 million. About EUR 5 million will be funded by ISPA programme and the remaining sum by the state budget.

USD 10.6 million costs the repair works of Hainboaz pass

Hainboaz pass has been opened for road traffic. The repair works started in the beginning of May under the Programme "Transit roads 3". The total cost of the project is USD 10.6 million of which 60% are granted by the EIB and 40% are provided by the Road Executive Agency budget. As contractor of the repair works was determined the joint venture between the companies Patni stroeji, Plovdiv and Binder, Sliven. The project includes 29.7 km rehabilitation in four sections as well as River Radova specific works. Some construction works outside the traffic lanes will be prolonged but they will be not obstructive for the road traffic.

Motorway construction

ISPA extends EUR 110 million for the Lyulin motorway. The tender for the company to win the construction contract will be held by mid-2003. Construction works are to start in the beginning of 2004. The consulting has been awarded to the Italian SPEA. The company must develop a technical project for the motorway. In the future the Lulin motorway which runs south of Sofia will be connected to the Struma motorway running to the Greek border.

Introducing of road user charges

As of 1 January 2004 the amendments in the Law on roads envisage road charges to be introduced for users of highways, first class and cross-border roads. At least 3000 km from the 37300 km road network, of which 321 km highways and 2700 first class roads, will be paid. It is anticipated that the vignette system will be applied.





Bulgaria approaches to finalising of Chapter "Transport"

On 21 November in Sofia was held a round table discussion with the participation of the ECMT Secretary General, Mr. Jack Short. The meeting was organised by the Ministry of Transport. Transport Minister Plamen Petrov informed that as a result of his last visits to Brussels and Paris there is a chance the negotiations with EU on Chapter "Transport" to be closed by the end of the year. The government and the parliament have undertaken measures to eliminate some problems in the field of maritime safety, cabotage, national road network.

During the one-day visit Mr. Jack Short was informed about the current state of all modes of transport in Bulgaria, infrastructure projects, perspectives for intermodal and urban transport development, upgrading of Bulgarian ports, road safety, the challenges in the process of integration in EU, etc. The participants drew attention to the fact that the Bulgarian legislation in the area of road transport is already harmonised with the European one. It was stressed the role of the Road Transport Executive Agency within the Ministry. Its priorities include analysing the legislative documents, control in regard to the Law on Road Transport and to the road worthiness test stations and repair of heavy vehicles, appliance of the license regime, etc. The Agency has issued licenses for domestic transport of goods to 2950 companies and for transport of passengers to 2308 companies. Also, licenses for international transport of goods have been issued to 4048 companies and for international transport of passengers to 354 companies.

At the meeting was discussed the combined transport as well. In Bulgaria it is performed on the base of the European and international standards. The Ministry of Transport has signed agreements on international combined transport of goods with Armenia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Czech Republic and Lebanon. Some problems of the rail transport were discussed also during the round table discussion.

Within his official visit Mr. Jack Short took part in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Transport Lubomil Ivanov, General Director of AEBTRI Plamen Tzalkov, representatives of the AEBTRI's Executive Board and experts from the Ministry of Transport and AEBTRI. The Bulgarian party presented information about the main problems faced by the Bulgarian hauliers using ECMT permits. In the first place it is the problem with the insufficient number of permits that does not corresponds to the real needs of the market. ECMT Secretary General stated that this issue is a political decision, taken by the Ministers of Transport of the ECMT Members states. Mr. Lubomil Ivanov informed that in 2004 is expected increasing of the permits because 50% of the ECMT permits for Euro-2 vehicles will be allocated to Euro-3 vehicles. In the next place it was discussed the fee collection from vehicles with ECMT permits in some countries and the insufficient competence of some control authorities. Mr. Short is going to analyse the problems but he stated as well that ECMT permits do not exempt the hauliers from all charges and taxes. Mr. Jack Short agreed with the AEBTRI's position that ECMT pays more attention to the transport of goods and overlooks the problems of passenger transport.



Mr. Jack Short and Mr. Lubomil Ivanov in AEBTRI



New traffic fines and penalties according to the amended Road Traffic Law

- For driving with an alcohol level in the blood from 0.5 gr/l to 1.2 gr/l, incl. - depriving of the right to operate motor vehicle for a period of 1 year and a fine between BGN 100 and BGN 300.

For a repeated offence - depriving of the right to operate motor vehicle for a period between 6 months and 2 years and a fine between BGN 200 and BGN 500.

- For transporting dangerous goods without having the certificate for the appropriate ADR professional competence - depriving of the right to operate motor vehicle for a period up to 6 months or a fine between BGN 200 and BGN 300.

For a repeated offence - depriving of the right to operate motor vehicle for a period between 3 months and 1 year and a fine between BGN 300 and BGN 400.

- For not adhering to the signals of traffic lights, the indications of traffic signs, road marking and other means for signposting, the rules for priority, passing, overtaking and passing over, if that causes direct danger for the traffic - a fine between BGN 50 and BGN 150.

- For driving with inappropriate speed and for not keeping safety distance, thus causing an accident (as the deed is not considered a crime) - a fine between BGN 100 and BGN 200.

- For driving a commercial vehicle (for public transport) beyond the legitimate working time and for driving into unhealthy or other shape, thus causing danger for the traffic - a fine up to BGN 50.

- For the idle run of the engine, when the motor vehicle is stopped or parked, unless the working of the engine has been necessary for carrying out of loading/unloading activity or other technological activity - a fine up to BGN 50.

- For exceeding the speed limits the fines are the following:

- Up to 20 km/h BGN 5
- From 20-30 km/h BGN 10
- From 30-40 km/h BGN 20
- From 40-50 km/h BGN 30

For a repeated offence - depriving of the right to operate motor vehicle for a period of 3 months and a fine of BGN 100.

- Over 50 km/h BGN 50

For a repeated offence - depriving of the right to operate motor vehicle for a period of 3 months and a fine of BGN 100.

- For driving a motor vehicle with an unfortified load, that causes danger for other participants in the traffic - a fine of BGN 20.

- For driving a motor vehicle with an unmarked (as stipulated by rule) load, that protrudes from the sides of the vehicle with more than 0.20 m and/or protrudes from the front or from the rear with more than 1 m - a fine of BGN 20.

- For not complying with the obligation for using safety belt or wearing helmet by the driver - a fine of BGN 20.

- For not complying with the obligation for using safety belt or wearing helmet by a passenger - a fine of BGN 10.

- For using a mobile phone during the driving, unless using a hands-free device - a fine of BGN 30.



Road
transport

DRIVING RESTRICTIONS BULGARIA - 2003

⇒ Due to construction works there is a temporary prohibition for freight motor vehicles with a total laden weight of over 10 t on I-5, section Tchernootchene village - Kardjali town:

• **direction Haskovo - Kardjali:** follow the route road I-5 - road III-505 - Manastir village - road III-507 - Voyvodino village - Most village - Tchiflik village - Ginsifovo village - Kardjali - road I-5;

• **direction Assenovgrad - Kardjali:** follow the route road III-58 - road I-5 - road III-505 - Manastir village - road III-507 - Voyvodino village - Most village - Tchiflik village - Ginsifovo village - Kardjali - road I-5;

• **direction Mineralni Bani - Kardjali:** follow the route road III-506 - road III-806 - road I-5 - road III-505 - Manastir village - road III-507 - Voyvodino village - Most village - Tchiflik village - Ginsifovo village - Kardjali - road I-5.

This restriction is not applied for buses and coaches.

⇒ During the summer period there is a prohibition on movement for trucks with a total laden weight of over 20 t during the period from 12:00 h to 19:00 h when temperatures reach 35°.

⇒ There is prohibition on movement of oversized and overloaded vehicles throughout the year:

- if the visibility is under 50 m due to mist, heavy rain or snow,
- if there is icing,
- during the dark time of the day and during rush hours, except in emergency or natural disasters.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FOR THE YEAR 2003

1 January - New Year's Day

3 March - National Holiday

1 May - Labour Day

27-28 April - Easter (Orthodox)

6 May - Day of Bulgarian Army

24 May - Day of Slavonic Alphabet

6 September - Union Day

22 September - Independence Day

1 November (working day) - Day of the Leaders of the National Revival

24-26 December - Christmas Holidays

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For more information and contacts: Mr. Christo LOZENOV, Mrs. Antonia ATANASOVA, Trans-Info Centre, AEBTRI., BG-1680 Sofia, 6 Iskarski Prolom str.; Tel: +359/2/958-14-74, 958-10-56; Fax: +359/2/958-10-91, 958-12-59; E-mail: lozenov@aebtri.ttm.bg; Web site: www.aebtri.com

Editor: Christo LOZENOV