



**OPENING ADDRESS BY JOVAN TEGOVSKI, CHIEF OF STAFF, REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC)**

"Regional JSPA Conference on strengthening air traffic regional cooperation in SEE"

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 29 April 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished participants, Dear guests,

- It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat to this important Conference that brings high-level representatives of the civil aviation authorities from the region as well as the respective Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and to thank the Montenegrin Civil Aviation Agency for their initiative and support in organising it jointly with RCC Secretariat.
- The enhancement of the regional cooperation in the area of air traffic was identified as one of the priorities of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 and consequently the RCC Secretariat devoted due attention to this issue.
- The focus was put on the preparation, with assistance of the Implementation of Single European Sky (ISIS) Programme Secretariat, of an application for a feasibility study on air traffic development in SEE, which was submitted for financing to the Western Balkans Investment Framework.
- As there is a wider regional awareness about the need for such a project due to very poor connection between air traffic regional hubs, which increases travel costs and time, thus significantly affecting the level of service quality, the initiative has been supported by the national administrations, civil aviation authorities and air industry in the region, as well as the NIPACs from several countries.
- Some of the expected outcomes of the project would be the improvement of the performance of air navigation regional system, better ability to control the air traffic flows as well as development of the current air traffic links, thus contributing to the greater mobility of people and business communication. The RCC Secretariat intends to

be engaged in the activities related to the project implementation, in close cooperation with the relevant EU and regional structures.

- The issue of regional cooperation in the area of air traffic will also continue to be high on our agenda and it has appropriately been addressed in the new RCC SWP 2014-2016 with **the SEE 2020 - a Job-creating Growth and EU integration Strategy** as its central pillar.
- Mentioning the SEE 2020, allow me to underline several features of the preparatory work done by the RCC Secretariat so far. The SEE 2020 Vision is firmly anchored into the Europe 2020 strategy and similarly to EU 2020, the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth pillars deal with adding value, effective and sustainable use of resources and sharing the benefits of growth respectively. However, the objectives and targets of these pillars are being adjusted to region's needs. The smart, sustainable and inclusive growth dimensions were enriched with two other, region-specific dimensions: integrated growth (aiming for greater integration of regional markets) and governance for growth (providing a framework for building administrative and institutional capacities and fighting corruption).
- And the growth can be achieved only if we maximize the potentials of all of our markets, including the regional one. In this respect, the increase in air traffic flows and connectivity in the region would certainly support the overall economic development in the SEE and the regional airspace potentials should be used in an efficient and effective manner by intensifying regional cooperation between air traffic stakeholders. The goal should be streamlining and aligning of the current activities in this sector in order to support the achievement of the national and regional targets defined under the SEE 2020 which will also be appropriately addressed in the new EU IPA II.
- The RCC will coordinate the overall efforts on the SEE 2020 implementation, communicate the progress to the political level of the countries involved and be responsible for developing and implementing the overall monitoring system.
- The RCC Secretariat has already organized and it will continue to organize a series of workshops in each of the five pillars of SEE 2020 to help raise awareness on the Strategy development process, identify relevant stakeholders and regional structures capable of taking a lead in specific dimensions of SEE 2020, assign roles and responsibilities. The first draft of the SEE 2020 will be ready by the end of June and ready for adoption by the end of this year.
- The SEE 2020 strategy and its Action Plan will call for the full support of the governments concerned in order to address effectively the region's economic development priorities and to make it more competitive, while bringing it closer to EU integration. This will also provide for an active involvement of the national governments in the SEE 2020 Strategy development and commitment to ensure that the Strategy is linked to specific national action plans, which should be implemented by the countries.

Dear guests,

- The RCC's role to coordinate activities and create political climate favourable for implementing projects of a wider, regional character will be translate in our engagement to promote consensus on how to overcome some of the difficulties the region is facing by tackling also this specific area of air traffic. Concentrating RCC's activities on a smaller set of tangible and result-oriented activities, while building closer relationships with national institutions and regional structures, has proven to be a cornerstone of a successful regional cooperation strategy.
- We are investing a lot of efforts in promoting a regional approach towards identification and launching the concrete infrastructure projects and facilitating access to the available EU funding instruments. Easier access to EU funds could be used as an opportunity and way to better coordinate investment activities in this area with the RCC support.
- At the end I would like to use this opportunity and commend your agreement to sign today the Letter of Intent providing a ground for stepwise development of a Joint Service Provision Service Area (JSPA) in SEE as a unique initiative towards better quality and competitiveness of the regional provision of Air navigation Services.
- Your participation confirms that you are willing to engage your full capacity to work towards strengthening regional cooperation in air traffic in SEE with the aim of effective implementation of envisaged EU requirements, particularly in the light of administrative and institutional weaknesses in the region and how to overcome them. In our view this could be done through transfer of knowledge and experience, data sharing from the EU member states to SEE region, using best air traffic practices and harmonizing legal framework with the EU standards.
- The JSPA could be our common roof under which we could better organize ourselves on regional level. After all, the JSPA Initiative aimed at further promoting Single European Sky (SES) in the region is nothing but regional cooperation, and thus, we have to work together to bring national approach closer to proper establishment of regional synergies among the partners and stakeholders.
- I wish you a successful and productive Conference.

Thank you!