

Missions conducted

In accordance with the planned activities for this period there was one official incoming mission held in week 14, 2008. Furthermore there was a visit to Belgrade carried out by Predrag Jovanović, Milan Duškov and Eugène Timmermans during the period under review.

1) Incoming mission to the Netherlands 31st of March to 2nd April 2008

This mission was organized to support the working groups in their initial introduction of Dutch know-how to their Serbian counter partners. The purpose of the mission was to continue building on the cooperation in each working group for the specific selected projects and to define the practical solutions which could be applied in Serbia on these projects.

There were 20 participants available from the Serbian side (see table with participants on www.dutchserbianinfra.nl) and about 30 from the Dutch side. This mission had a different character compared with the previous missions because it was the first visit of Serbian middle management from the Ministry of Infrastructure, the public enterprises and companies to the Netherlands. Until now all contacts with our Serbian counterparts have taken place in Serbia. It was also important to meet not only the senior decision makers but also the relatively high potential younger individuals among Serbian civil servants to get acquainted with Dutch civil and environmental engineering. These people will probably remain in their positions regardless of the election results of 11th May 2008.

State secretary Miodrag Jocić was also available during the whole week from 31st of March until 5th of April which was a great opportunity to explore with him various subjects of interest. Unofficial meetings were held between state secretary Miodrag Jocić and Bart van Bolhuis – Dept. Int. Business, E. Bouwmeester – Min. V&W, Claudia Cremers – BEB, Gerko Slotman – 2g@there programme and Predrag Jovanović – BC which were very useful regarding the latest developments within Serbia. There was a positive reaction to Business Council activities and the achieved progress was noted with considerable pleasure.

Furthermore the experts from NACO (DHV) – Leo Wolters, had an interesting meeting with the state secretary about the recent developments for the conversion of military airports to civil airports. Concerning this subject a presentation in the Serbian Ministry of Defence was held by Milan Duškov last February.

As illustrated in the following table for practical reasons four separate daily programs were organized for the thematic working group members in order make it possible for them to go to see the projects within their own field of expertise.

Programme Inbound Mission 31 st of March and 1 st of April 2008			
Sunday 30-03			
Arrival			
Monday 31-03			
Welcome (EVD and Business Council Coordination Board)			
Rail	Roads	Environment	Water (Transport)
Presentation programme for both days and Work group meeting	Travel to Rotterdam Project visit Geotextiles near Rotterdam	Presentation programme for both days	Presentation programme for both days Work group meeting
Travel to Amsterdam	Lunch	Project visit soil protection tank park in Den Bosch	Travel to Amsterdam
Lunch	Visit University of Delft	Lunch	Lunch
Visit of Multi Modal Terminal Port of Amsterdam	Project visit Hezco Bridge near Amsterdam	Project visits high way A50 and A2 – water protection and waste material as building material	Visit of Multi Modal Terminal Port of Amsterdam
Travel to hotel	Travel to hotel	Travel to hotel	Travel to hotel
Diner buffet	Diner buffet	Diner buffet	Diner buffet
Tuesday 01-04			
Rail	Roads	Environment	Water (Transport)
Company visit in Breukelen	Travel to Eindhoven Project visit high way reconstruction A2 Eindhoven	Travel to Amsterdam Project visit Dinerzwaardijk - waste disposal site	Travel to Tiel Visit of river traffic control centre Tiel
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch at river traffic control centre
Company visit production location of railway systems in Houten	Project visit realisation disposal site Heiloo	Project visit realisation disposal site Heiloo	Travel to Rotterdam Company visit river radar systems
Travel to hotel	Travel to hotel	Travel to hotel	Travel to hotel
Diner buffet	Diner buffet	Diner buffet	Diner buffet
Wednesday 02-04			
Departure			

The mission agenda included optional meetings/sight-seeing to many locations (Amsterdam, Haarlem, Rotterdam, Eindhoven, Delft, Heiloo, Den Bosch, The Hague etc.) for two days but despite this extreme effort everyone was most satisfied with the results.

Our intention was a dedicated mission where the Serbian participants had opportunities to discuss the specific projects of common interest with their Dutch counterparts. Partly due to ongoing G2G projects there were also concrete projects for the Serbian railways, waterways and highways. Special attention was paid to Trisoplast (mineral liners) including a visit to a project in progress (see photo) because of a several forthcoming EU tenders related to the future landfills and ground water protection on refinery grounds within Serbia.



According to the very positive reactions of our Serbian counterparts, the goals of the incoming mission were achieved. Demonstrations of the latest Dutch knowhow to Serbian participants contributed to strengthen the cooperation on specific projects and stimulated bilateral cooperation in general. Some of these specific projects and products are:

- Central Train Station “Prokop” in Belgrade
- Strategic planning (master plan for transport)
- G2G projects
- By-pass Motorway Road Belgrade – junction Bubanj Potok
- 145 km concession for motorway Horgoš-Požega
- Silent asphalt for road M23
- Waste plants at Pirot and Užice
- Environmental solution for NIS - Serbian oil industry
- Serbian airports
- Vialis LEDs and level crossings
- Strukton railway maintenance
- Trisoplast mineral liners

faction about the progress. In his opinion it was a very good mission concerning the participation of the younger generation of civil servants from his ministry because they will be playing a crucial role in the future cooperation between the Netherlands and Serbia.

2) Visit to Belgrade 14-18 April, 2008

The main goal of the visit to Belgrade (carried out by Milan Duškov, Predrag Jovanović and Eugène Timmermans) was to continue business with the special attention to the specific projects of interest to BC members. It was also necessary to make these visits for the preparation activities for the outgoing mission in October 2008. The visit in April 2008 was used to monitor progress and the results from the incoming mission and some pre-operational issues for project implementation.

General impressions

An illustration of the impact of our activities during earlier visits/presentations is an article published on April 15, 2008 in Politika (Serbia's most influential quality newspaper) about the Dutch civil and environmental technologies. The article is based on the interview given on February 14, 2008 after our presentation in the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. The BC members and Dutch products are mentioned by name. The article appeared on the occasion of annual Civil Engineering Fair in Belgrade.



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Сајам у Москви

ПОСЕТИТЕ НАС НА САЈМУ ГРАЂЕВИНАРСТВА
У ХАЛЛ 3 ОД 18. ДО 16. ЈУНИЈА 2008.

It can be concluded that this mission was successfully conducted by the organizers without any misunderstandings among the experts and also very well received by Dutch Ministries and companies. State Secretary Miodrag Jocić expressed his personal satisfaction about the progress.