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ИКОНОМИЧЕСКИ  
И СОЦИАЛЕН СЪВЕТ

# **OPINION**

**of**

**THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**on**

**CHALLENGES FACING THE BULGARIAN ECONOMY**

**(Own-initiative opinion)**

Pursuant to Article 15(3) of the Law for the Economic and Social Council the Presidents Board made a decision to elaborate an own-initiative opinion on

### **Challenges Facing the Bulgarian Economy**

For the elaboration of the draft opinion an **Interim Commission** was established; here follow the members of the commission: Chairman – Bozhidar Danev; members - Associate Professor Lena Rusenova, Nikolay Nenkov, Luben Tomev, Nikolay Tsankov and Petar Stefanov.

At a meeting held on 27 March 2010 the Interim Commission adopted the draft opinion and submitted it with the Council President to be discussed and adopted by the plenary session.

At a meeting held on 29 March 2010 the plenary session adopted this opinion.

Thus the Economic and Social Council (ESC) plays its traditionally constructive role in the civil dialogue and the consultations with the executive and legislature on the economic and social policy of this country.

By the adopted opinion the ESC supports also the intention as expressed in a Decision of the Council of Ministers of 10 March 2010 to work in closer cooperation with the ESC during the elaboration of the position of the Republic of Bulgaria on the future EU-2020 Strategy.

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## **FIRST. INTRODUCTION**

The global financial crisis and the subsequent economic crisis disturbed the Bulgarian economy, too. The latter turned out to be particularly sensitive to external impact due to its peculiarities as follows:

- ❖ open nature;
- ❖ structural deformations accumulated during the last decade as a result of the speculative development of the building branch, real estate and credit boom;
- ❖ orientation to manufacture of high energy intensity and low value-added products;
- ❖ steady decrease of human resources skills.

The ongoing collapse of the Bulgarian economy and the rising unemployment create a threat the economic crisis to cause also a social crisis, which could turn into a financial crisis in a reverse sequence as compared to the global crisis.

The overcoming of the economic slowdown under the conditions of rising unemployment poses the question: which will be the next leader in the Bulgarian economy, which can foster and guarantee its recovery. The economic crisis is also a chance to restructure the economy and enhance its competitiveness as well as a chance to reestablish the Bulgarian traditions in upgrading the skills and education of the human resources.

## **SECOND. BRANCH POLICIES**

### **1. AGRICULTURE**

1.1. Two groups of measures as follows:

- 1.1.1. structural reform and enhancement of the effectiveness and competitiveness of the agricultural production;
- 1.1.2. establishment of conditions for the perfect implementation of the common agricultural policy under the conditions of the EU membership.

1.2. The first group of measures - national measures aimed at a structural reform and enhancement of the effectiveness and competitiveness of the production - implies the following:

- 1.2.1. There should be streamlined legislation, which regularises the land relations, including improvement of the principles, right, conditions and the proportions of inheritance, land-settlement, use, conservation and ownership of agricultural land as well as curbing land fragmentation.
- 1.2.2. The State should commit to pay the national surcharges to the direct subsidies granted by the EU.

- 1.2.3. The State should develop and implement active social policy for those employed in the agricultural sector. It is necessary to streamline the social security regime of the seasonal workers, too.
  - 1.2.4. Programmes should be elaborated to support the development of the „new” trends in the agricultural production - biological production, production of biofuels, etc.
  - 1.2.5. Targeted programmes should be developed and special measures should be undertaken regarding the activities, which support the agricultural production - hydromelioration, plant protection and agrochemistry as well as veterinary.
  - 1.2.6. There should be used the entire potential of the universities, the scientific institutes to the National Centre for Agrarian Sciences and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the agricultural schools, the Office for Advice in Agriculture and other institutions to support the agricultural producers and especially the semi-subsistence farms with a potential for growth.
  - 1.2.7. There should be provided targeted incentive from the Agriculture State Fund to the young farmers.
  - 1.2.8. There should be provided professional advice for the agricultural producers and an effective system of market institutions and market information should be established with the assistance of the local authority.
- 1.3. The second group of measures - establishing conditions for the perfect implementation of the common agricultural policy in the European Union - implies the following:
- 1.3.1. Further improvement of the paying agency's institutional structure and capacity as well as of the integrated administration and control system.
  - 1.3.2. Implementation of all the measures related to the veterinary and health issues.
  - 1.3.3. The implementation of the common agricultural policy calls for a better organisation of the agricultural sector so that each player - the public authorities and the agricultural producers - to assume its share of obligations and responsibilities. The State should implement active policy to present in an attractive manner the Bulgarian agricultural production before the EU Member States and other perspective trading partners of Bulgaria.
  - 1.3.4. Implementation of all the undertakings related to the establishment of the milk market - establishing independent laboratories for measuring the fat content; effective performance of the national and regional milk boards.
- 1.4. Urgent measures taken by the State to streamline the land relations aimed at land consolidation and complete map-making from the land cadastre, too.

## 2. TOURISM

2.1. Here follow the proposals for the medium and long term:

- 2.1.1 Determining of the product policy trends by implementing national policy for "hospitality".
- 2.1.2 Diversification of the tourist product and establishing favourable conditions and environment for development of specialised tourism - cultural and historical, balneological, ecological, rural and congress tourism.
- 2.1.3 Reducing the grey economy share in this branch. Development of a long-term tax policy, license policy, policies on fees, insurance, etc.
- 2.1.4 Measures for continuous an effective control on payment of the taxes, fees, social contributions due, etc.
- 2.1.5 Tax incentives and other economic incentives for the development of the infrastructure and for the attracting foreign and domestic investment.
- 2.1.6 Granting concession of the beaches, mineral springs and other historical and natural places of interest.
- 2.1.7 Establishing modern and effective system for education and upgrading the skills of the necessary specialists in tourism, which implies the following:
  - defining state educational requirements for attainment of qualifications per professions in the tourism branch;
  - establishing regulations to foster the production and training practice in real environment;
  - improvement of the education and training quality;
  - establishing specialised vocational training centres to the branch employers and trade union organisations in tourism;
  - developing instruments to validate the professional knowledge and skills gained through on-the-job training.
- 2.1.8 Commitments concerning the development and maintenance of the national, regional and local infrastructures.
- 2.1.9 Determining the role and commitments of the State, local authorities, local and regional organisations as well as the businesses in the field of tourism. Establishing standing committees on tourism to the National Assembly, Ministry of Tourism and mainly a National Council on Tourism to the Council of Ministers as a state public authority.

### 3. INDUSTRY

3.1. Here follow the main aims of the sectoral policy in the field of industry:

- 3.1.1. Developing a dynamic knowledge-based economy, which provides opportunities for fulfilment and decent life of each citizen.
- 3.1.2. Ensuring accelerated and stable economic growth, higher than the average one for the unified Europe.
- 3.1.3. Reaching the benchmarks for a fuller employment as a key objective of the economic and social policy.
- 3.1.4. Adopting the European social model and developing a modern effective social protection system.

3.2. The objectives proposed should be attained in the following way:

3.2.1. Promoting the global competitiveness of the Bulgarian industry on the following basis:

- common position on the strategic priorities in the development of the Bulgarian industry;
- concerted action of the State and businesses concerning promotion and support of investment and scientific research and development;
- establishing and implementing competitive tax and social security treatment to reduce the fiscal pressure on industry and labour;
- strict and unswerving sticking to and implementation of the priorities of the operational programme Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy for the period 2007-2013.

3.2.2. Enhancement of the competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy and promotion of export.

3.2.3. Improvement and simplification of the regulatory framework for free development of businesses and fostering the set up of production activities.

3.2.4. Focus on the situation in the field of environment.

3.2.5. Making a new start in the innovation strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria, which should be backed by certain measures as follows:

- supply of transfer and intermediary services to the industrial enterprises;
- elaboration of innovation profiles of the enterprises;
- implementation of certain specific measures to promote „hunger” for high-tech innovation in the industrial companies;
- reestablishment of the relation between the businesses and the university education and science;
- implementation of a targeted state policy addressed to the „generators” of innovative solutions;
- development of financial incentive mechanisms designed for the potential of the higher education institutions;
- additional activation of the National Innovation Council's performance.

- 3.2.6. Improvement of the infrastructure and effective absorption of the EU structural and the cohesion funds.
- 3.2.7. Minimising the negative effects of the sharp increase of the consumer goods and foodstuffs inlet flow due to the large international trade chains entry. The measures should be in two directions as follows:
- The Commission for Protection of Competition should take relevant action to preclude dumping;
  - the Council of Ministers should provide the necessary institutional, organisational and resource preconditions for strict control and observation of the European standards and requirements for safety of the consumer goods and foodstuffs.
- 3.2.8. Measures to enhance the border veterinary control and to limit the low quality foodstuffs import in this country.
- 3.2.9. Measures against worsening the problem of lack of skilled labour force. The Council insists that education should be really defined a national priority.

### **THIRD. INSTRUMENTS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

#### **1. REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT**

#### **MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS**

1. The first obstacle facing the stable economic environment is the expanded informal economy sector, which influences the economic dynamics through the following:
  - 1.1. Worsening of the socio-economic problems through draining funds from the public sector.
  - 1.2. Exclusion of many people of working age and drawing them off the labour market for a long time.
  - 1.3. Undermining the principles of competition and free private initiative.
  - 1.4. Increasing the market risk for the investors and driving them away from the national market for a long time.
  - 1.5. Participation in certain international corruption and criminal networks.
  - 1.6. Creating a negative image of this country.
  - 1.7. Unlawful interference with the authority system, which jeopardises the democratic institutions stability.
  - 1.8. Reproduction of the funds for further extension of the criminal activity, including provision of dirty money influx for the corruption lobbies in the state institutions.
  - 1.9. Direct financing the political parties.



2. The following bottlenecks have been identified:
  - 2.1. The Law on Reduction of the Administrative Regulation and Administrative Control over the Economic Activity (LRARACEA) is not implemented in practice. The central and territorial administrations do not observe the requirements determined in the LRARACEA.
  - 2.2. No mechanisms and methods for control over the bodies are laid down in the regulation.
  - 2.3. Permanent lack of specified time frames for issuing the relevant acts on the implementation of the regulatory regimes is observed.
  - 2.4. The register of the administrative structures is chaotic and does not serve as a reliable instrument for management and monitoring of the regulatory regimes.
  - 2.5. No assessment of the normative acts impact is performed.
  - 2.6. The legal possibility of sufferance is not exercised in case of public authorities' omission.
  - 2.7. The provisions laid down in the E-Government Act are not applied.

## **MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. For the restriction of the informal economy there should be adopted a policy of reduction of the financial incentives for performing activities in the black economy.
  - 3.1. Adoption of a programme for combat against informal economy by an inter-institutional coordinating body.
  - 3.2. Coordination of action and optimising the information exchange among the authorities for counteraction to unfair competition.
  - 3.3. Transparency of the public finances, tax system and expenditure policy of the State.
  - 3.4. Making the tax system simpler, including the VAT registration of all business entities.
  - 3.5. Repeal or simplification of some regulatory regimes as well as review of the fees.
  - 3.6. Reforms in the social security system.
  - 3.7. Consistent financial decentralisation.
  - 3.8. Enhanced effectiveness of administration and combat against corruption.
  - 3.9. Some activities should be outsourced to private contractors.
  - 3.10. Strict lawful sanctions in case of unpaid wages.
  - 3.11. Public control over the performance of the administration.
  - 3.12. Improvement of the administrative capacity and implementation of an integrated information system.

4. The prerequisites for the restriction of the informal economy and the improvement of the business environment are as follows:
  - 4.1. Inclusion of the social partners in the development of the policies and measures for simplification and reduction of the regulatory regimes.
  - 4.2. The application of one stop shop and e-government should be extended.
  - 4.3. For the monopolistic and oligopolistic providers of public services there should be introduced the same requirements for disclosure of information as those valid for the public companies.
  - 4.4. There should be established a common register of the business entities and a unified cadastral and land register.
  - 4.5. A register of the correct taxpayers should be established.
  
5. The following measure should be undertaken in the legislation:
  - 5.1. Coordination of the legislative process among the institutions.
  - 5.2. Simplification and reduction of the volume of legislation.
  - 5.3. Adoption and transposition of the Community acquis.
  
6. The public administration should undertake the following measures:
  - 6.1. Revision of the existing registration regimes.
  - 6.2. Repeal of the unlawful regimes.
  - 6.3. The regimes should be ranked in the following way: notification, certification/registration - permission/license regimes.
  - 6.4. There should be shortened the list of economic activities for which a license regime shall be established.
  - 6.5. The complete monitoring of the LRARACEA and the E-Government Act implementation should be assigned to a body of the executive.
  - 6.6. There should be met the requirement that the fees for administrative regulation and control should not exceed the expenditure of the administration for performing these activities.
  - 6.7. The administrative register should be further developed in the section concerning the regulatory regimes by elaborating a complete list of the regulatory regimes implemented by the central administration and the local administrations. There should be provided a possibility to keep trace of the time frames for issuing administrative acts.
  - 6.8. There should be stipulated a general presumption of law for sufferance in case of administration's omission.
  - 6.9. Strict adherence to the provisions of the LRARACEA and the E-Government Act, which stipulate prohibition for the administration to request from the juridical persons data already submitted with the administrative structures.

- 6.10. There should be defined a lawful requirement for performance of preliminary and periodical impact assessments.
  - 6.11. The executive should perform a complete review of the regulation and should submit a proposal with the legislature, who should bring the regulation in line with the LRARACEA and the E-Government Act.
  - 6.12. The latest amendments of the Decree of the Council of Ministers No 121 should be incorporated in the procedures for application with projects for absorption of the EU funds.
  - 6.13. The Public Procurement Act should be adapted to the provisions of the E-Government Act.
  - 6.14. It is necessary to accelerate the implementation of a unified payment order for payment of social contributions.
7. The following measures should be undertaken to reduce the administrative obstacles and to improve the business environment:
- 7.1. Amendments of the Commercial Act to alleviate the regime of performance of the limited companies, including in respect of planning, calling and holding the general meetings of the shareholders.
  - 7.2. Ceasing the practice to require certificates of status from the companies.
  - 7.3. Abolishment of the requirement for the companies to declare the dividend paid to natural persons.
  - 7.4. Alleviation of the requirements to the financial reports of the micro- and small-sized companies.
8. Application of the principles and methods of corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- 8.1. The state should accelerate the implementation of policies, which promote the extended and active implementation of CSR practices.
  - 8.2. There should be set requirements for disclosure of information to the companies with public and municipal capital and to the companies providing services of general interest (especially those in a monopolistic position) treating them as public companies.
  - 8.3. Fostering the development and implementation of projects, which contribute to the knowledge and competence in the field of labour legislation.
  - 8.4. The government should commit to extend the branch collective agreements closed.
  - 8.5. Promoting CSR implementation in the small- and medium-sized companies.
  - 8.6. Promoting the implementation and development of education in CSR in the secondary and higher education systems in this country.

## **2. EUROPEAN FUNDS**

### **MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS**

1. Here follow the main risks related to the absorption of European funds:
  - 1.1. Instead of being treated as funds supplementing the local sources, they should be entirely used to replace the national funding.
  - 1.2. The balance of the economic structure has been disturbed due to inappropriately implemented national priorities.
  - 1.3. The absorption of the European funds has been defined an exclusive priority, which will restrain innovation and entrepreneurship for generation of value-added and real economic growth.
  
2. The bottlenecks in the absorption of the European funds are as follows:
  - 2.1. The advance payments are of quite low amounts due to the requirement to provide a bank guarantee.
  - 2.2. Both VAT and profit taxes are levied on the remittance among the partners for co-financing the equity allocated for the projects.
  - 2.3. The branch networks and regional structures of the socio-economic partners (SEP) in practice will be able to participate on their own in the process of European funds absorption during the implementation of the particular measures under the operational programmes.
  - 2.4. The lack of clear directions on granting State aid compromises the successful application of the financial instruments themselves.
  - 2.5. There is no system of market-oriented guarantee, venture capital and micro-credit funds, which would provide the access of the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to some sources of co-financing.
  - 2.6. There is observed a trend of over-regulation and requirement for too many documents for application with the European funds. Where a problem is identified, the notification of a management authority takes from six months to a year, and a two years' cycle is necessary to settle the respective problem.

### **MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. In order to improve the programme documents, which arrange the absorption of the European funds for the period 2007-2013, the following is recommended:

- 3.1. Regarding expenditure the focus should be on the critical fields and segments of the public and private sectors, which provide the most significant contribution according to the priorities defined in the Lisbon Strategy.
  - 3.2. In addition to the overall financing plan there should be presented the overall allocations to the final beneficiaries.
  - 3.3. Improvement of the information campaigns concerning the national strategic reference framework and the operational programmes along with the active attraction and participation of the SEP in this process.
  - 3.4. Actions to increase the capacity of the branch organisations of the employers and the employees for participation in some programmes and projects under the EU funds.
  - 3.5. Development of a system for continuous training of the organisations of the employers and the employees on development, management, implementation and monitoring of projects financed from the EU funds.
4. The ESC's recommendations on the Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy Operational Programme are as follows:
- 4.1. Using the capacity of the local SEP structures to provide information and advisory services to the potential beneficiaries.
  - 4.2. The fulfilment of the strategic objective "increasing the effectiveness of the institutions" should include action to enhance the effectiveness of SEP and their regional networks.
  - 4.3. The strategic objective "improvement of the business environment" should also cover "regulation of the monopoly services" - a field of action that should be specified by individual programmes within the frames of the annual plans for implementation of the operational programme.
  - 4.4. As soon as possible a market-oriented system of guarantee, venture capital and micro-credit funds should be launched.
  - 4.5. Development of new instruments to facilitate the access of the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to the European funds, including the following:
    - 4.5.1. The State should guarantee the access of the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to various sources of financing through fostering the establishment of a market-oriented system of guarantee, venture capital and micro-credit funds.
    - 4.5.2. The provision of the financial resources should be on the basis of a 20 years' period as a part of an integrated policy in the management of the funds under priority 3 after the year 2013.
    - 4.5.3. The employers' organisations representative on a national basis should be engaged in the discussion of the to-be agreements on priority 3 with the European Investment Fund.

- 4.6. To enhance the Bulgarian companies' export capacities the following action under priority 4 should be immediately undertaken:
    - defining the outsourcing principle to be a key principle in the provision of the services and activities as defined in priority 4;
    - active inclusion of the SEP and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing information and advisory services to the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), while using their regional networks;
    - specifying packages of information and advisory services, including also standards for provision of these services;
    - territorial coverage countrywide;
    - a public register of the particular services provided by the network members.
  - 4.7. Reducing the currently planned maximum amount of grants to the companies to support their technological modernisation.
  - 4.8. Provision of alternative sources of financing as share and bond issue using the available financial facilities as proposed by the international banks for development.
5. The recommendations on the Human Resources Development Operational Programme are as follows:
- 5.1. Abolishing the upper limit of the co-financing rate.
  - 5.2. The measures designed to improve employment should cover not only the unemployed, but also the inactive persons on labour market.
  - 5.3. The requirement for a minimum number of classes and the restriction for gathering of learners from different types of enterprises (small-, medium-sized and large enterprises) within one project should be abolished.
  - 5.4. Establishing clear procedures for approval of the beneficiaries' tender documentation on selecting sub-contractors.
  - 5.5. Elaboration of procedures which should preclude the rejection of any project proposals before the clarification of all the circumstances regarding their administrative admissibility.
  - 5.6. There should be foreseen a dialogue regime between the administration and beneficiaries during the evaluation of the administrative admissibility of the project proposals submitted.
6. The recommendations on the National Programme for Rural Development Operational Programme and on the Regional Development Operational Programme are as follows:
- 6.1. The financial aid for partner enterprises or related enterprises within the meaning of the Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Act, as laid down in the national rural development plan, should not exceed the maximum amount of the equivalent in BGN of EUR 200 000. This requirement is not based on any EU requirements and additionally restricts the group of potential beneficiaries to a great extent.

- 6.2. Another important disadvantage is the requirement to provide a bank guarantee for the advanced payment.
  - 6.3. The municipalities should be more active during the elaboration and submission of the project proposals.
  - 6.4. The construction of a waste water treatment plant at the Black Sea coast has been defined a priority.
  - 6.5. The publication of a Beneficiary Guide should be accelerated.
7. The suggestions are as follows:
- 7.1. A unit for rapid response in case of identified problems should be established.
  - 7.2. Reaching national consensus on defining the Bulgarian economy strategic sectors, which have a potential for export.
  - 7.3. There should be foreseen a mechanism for additional incentives for the employees of the management authorities and the interim units on the basis of the quality and quantity of the submitted, reviewed and evaluated project proposals as well as the contracts closed and successfully performed.
  - 7.4. The requirement to provide a bank guarantee for the advanced payment should be reviewed.

## **FOURTH. COMPETITIVENESS OF THE ECONOMY**

### **MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS**

1. The competitiveness deficit of the Bulgarian economy is due to the following structural problems:
  - 1.1. poor investment in the fields of research and development, information and communication technologies, education, liberalisation, etc.
  - 1.2. Low level of protection of the intellectual rights and industrial property as well as disproportionately high fees for their registration.
  - 1.3. Better management and regulation of the human and financial resources are necessary in the field of budgeting, too.
  - 1.4. Proactive culture for management in the public sector is missing.
2. The main factors, which will support the economic recovery and the promotion of competitiveness are as follows:
  - the infrastructure;
  - the human resources;
  - the financial capital;

- the quality of the institutions and their stability;
- the geopolitical situation of this country.

Attaining long-term competitiveness while realising the national potential for knowledge and investment. Increasing the labour productivity and the potential for better use of labour force.

## MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. State policy in the following fields:
  - 1.1. A branch-oriented road map for enhancement of the competitiveness of this country.
  - 1.2. Technological renewal through „the best affordable technologies” in the EU.
  - 1.3. Separation of the State from the management of the trading companies.
  - 1.4. Restructuring of the subsidised branches aimed at minimising the budget subsidies.
  - 1.5. Promotion of entrepreneurship and fostering the small- and medium-sized undertakings.
  - 1.6. Attaining equality between State and businesses.
  - 1.7. Supporting the establishment of cluster networks of manufacture based on a product or geographical principle.
  
2. Innovation policy in support of the competitiveness and the economic growth.
  - 2.1. Policy of the State for a thorough structural optimisation and technological modernisation of the economy.
  - 2.2. A mechanism for fostering the scientific projects in industry and activation of the relation „education - scientific research – innovation”.
  - 2.3. Conditions and incentives for financing the scientific research activity by the private sector.
  - 2.4. Shift to low power consumption and intensity of use, with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
  - 2.5. Effective use of the energy resources and the other natural resources.
  - 2.6. Sale of emission rights under the Kyoto Protocol (AAU).
  
3. Improvement of the quality indicators of the human capital and the life long learning as a prerequisite for enhancement of the competitiveness.
  - 3.1. Modernisation of education in accordance with the employers' needs.
  - 3.2. The basic criterion for the training of the unemployed should be the quality of training and the knowledge gained by the learners.
  - 3.3. Institutional support should be provided to the branch centres for vocational training, which serve the small- and medium-sized enterprises.



- 3.4. The teachers in the secondary schools and the lecturers at the higher education institutions should be certified regarding computer literacy, language competence and command of foreign languages.
  - 3.5. An Investment in Youth Fund should be established.
4. In the field of transport and communication infrastructure the following is needed:
- 4.1. Capital support to the geostrategic situation of Bulgaria through accelerated development of a diversified modern transport infrastructure.
  - 4.2. Restoring the disturbed infrastructure balance between the central and peripheral regions of Bulgaria.
  - 4.3. Establishing up-to-date border crossing points.
  - 4.4. Improving the balance in the development of the modes of transport.
  - 4.5. Eliminating the bottlenecks in the transport infrastructure.
  - 4.6. Establishing complete technological compatibility for movement on the trans-European transport network.
  - 4.7. The principles and opportunities of the public-private partnerships should be applied.
  - 4.8. Implementation of high intelligent transport systems for control, monitoring and especially for safety in the transport system.
  - 4.9. Establishing broadband Internet access.

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