



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 9 July 2012
MMA

Launching event of the EU-funded project:

**Preparation of Project Studies and Design Documentation for the
Railway Sections along the Corridor X including branch Xd**

9 July 2012,
Government building- Debate Hall

Speech

H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav,
Head of the Delegation of European Union

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Peshevski,

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Stavrevski,

Dear Minister Janakieski,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be with you today on the presentation of this EU-funded project under the Operational Programme for Regional Development.

This project will contribute to the upgrading of the railway connection along Corridor X which is part of the Trans European transport networks.

The European Union supports the development of the Trans European transport networks (Ten-T) in order to create a single European multimodal network that integrates land, sea and air transport networks throughout the continent. We consider such a network key to the overall socio-economic development in Europe. Moreover, it symbolises the very ambition of the European Union to connect all its citizens and its markets.

It is essential to build the missing links and remove the bottlenecks in our transport infrastructure, as well as to ensure its long-term sustainability by taking into account the energy efficiency needs and the climate change challenges.

Therefore, substantial funds were and are provided by the European Union to upgrade and complete the Trans European transport networks, not only in the EU Member States but also in the Western Balkans countries.

Within the IPA Operational Programme for Regional Development 2007-2013 an amount of 110 million Euro is allocated to upgrading and constructing road and rail transport infrastructure in the country.

This 1.5 million Euro project presents only the beginning of a comprehensive European Union assistance programme for the transport sector that will be implemented in the coming years.

Support to the transport sector will remain a priority for the European Union in the country and we are looking forward to the successful implementation of numerous transport projects in partnership with the Government and the private sector!

Thank you very much for your attention.