



**OECD/ECMT Conference on
Strategic Environmental Assessment for Transport**

**WARSAW
14-15 October 1999**

**SEA Applied to Multimodal Corridors
Methodology Developed by France
The Case of the North Corridor**

*Pierre Scriabine
SETRA, France*



SEA APPLIED TO MULTIMODAL CORRIDORS
METHODOLOGY DEVELOPED BY FRANCE
THE CASE OF THE NORTH CORRIDOR

Pierre Skriabine, SETRA, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, France

INTRODUCTION TO THE PRESENTATION OF TRANSPARENCIES

This study was conducted for a project on European Corridors, initiated and cofinanced by the European Community.

The methodology presented here is a development and follow-up of an initial approach arising out of the resolve of the French Directorate of Roads to use a strategic environmental assessment method, involving no legal or regulatory obligations, for studies of the new National Road Master Plan.

This study was conducted on the basis on this approach implemented by SETRA¹ and the Lyon CETE², with help from INGEROP, particularly Jean-Marie Braun and Anne Guerrero.

For the application in France of the European directive on the environmental impact assessment of plans and programmes, it is planned to determine the content principles of SEA studies for each type of plan or programme (preliminary scoping policy), and then to adapt this content to each case, to take particular account of the proportionality rule and thus proceed with specific scoping. The advantage of the presented methodology is that it adapts to the relevant themes and indicators resulting from this scoping, subject to the availability of the corresponding data in the form of a GIS.

This method can be developed to make it interactive and user-friendly so that it will also be a tool for communication and debate.

There is also progress to be made towards better knowledge and awareness of indirect, spillover and cumulative effects. This also involves an effort to achieve quality and availability of data.

Note that the environment is only one aspect of the strategic assessment. For a transport project, the aspects of traffic, socio-economics, cost and technical feasibility must also be addressed. A good solution in environmental terms is not necessarily the best in general terms nor even in terms of sustainable development.

To conclude this introductory presentation: This approach and its application to the case of the North Corridor, has been of great value to us through its input to the ongoing study to prepare for the implementation of the future European directive on the SEA. This will require precise, but flexible methodologies able to adapt to the different types of plans or programmes and to the specific approaches involved.

¹ Service d'Etudes Techniques des Routes et Autoroutes (Roads and Motorways Engineering Department)

² Centre d'Etudes Techniques de l'Equipement (Public Works Regional Engineering Centre)

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF A MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR

Pierre Skriabine, Head of the "Environment" Studies Branch of the Service d'Etudes Techniques des Routes et Autoroutes (SETRA - Roads and Motorways Engineering Department) Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing, France.

Pierre Skriabine
SETRA- CSTR
46, avenue Aristide Briand
92225 Bagneux
France
tel : (33) 1 46 11 36 22
fax : (33) 1 46 11 36 83
e-mail : skriabine@setra.fr

Abstract

SETRA, jointly with the Lyon CETE, recently developed a strategic environmental assessment methodology of major road links for the preparation of the French National Road Master Plan.

Since then, in response to a request from the European Commission, SETRA has perfected and developed this approach towards a strategic environmental assessment methodology applicable to all transport infrastructure (road, rail and waterway infrastructure). It is extended to include an assessment of multimodal scenarios combining these infrastructure types at the level of a major corridor integrating a cross-border dimension.

The use of geographic information system data and resources has been generalized.

With the help of the consultant Ingerop, this new French strategic environmental assessment methodology has been developed and tested on the case of the North Corridor, a broad expanse of land between Le Havre, the north of the Greater Paris region, Nancy and the Brussels region, for a study cofinanced with the European Commission.

The proposed contribution will present the new methodology, discuss the choice of indicators, illustrate the results of its application to the North Corridor, and analyse its implications, particularly in terms of data.