

# **FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE EU - WESTERN BALKANS TRANSPORT COMMUNITY**

**Brussels, 6 December 2017**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Treaty establishing the Transport Community adopted the agenda for the meeting and agreed that, in the absence of Rules of Procedures adopted yet, Ms Maja Bakran, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's DG MOVE would chair the meeting.
2. The Ministerial Council decided by consensus that Belgrade shall be the seat of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community ('Secretariat'). The Decision by the Ministerial Council is attached to these Conclusions.
3. The European Commission explained the draft Rules of Procedures for the Ministerial Council currently being discussed by the Council of the European Union and requested the South East European Parties to provide any comments by 10 January 2018. Once finalised, the Rules of Procedures may be endorsed in writing.
4. The European Commission proposed the timeline for setting up the Secretariat, in particular the nomination of the Director by spring 2018, and presented the envisaged structure of the Secretariat, which would be based on two pillars (headed by two deputies): i) TEN-T infrastructure development and financing, and ii) alignment with the EU acquis and standards. Staff numbers would correspond to the budget available for 2018. The draft organigram of the Secretariat will soon be sent to the Western Balkans Parties.
5. The Ministerial Council agreed that the first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community should take place in early 2018 to discuss the necessary steps to set up the Secretariat by the end of June 2018. Such steps should include, among others, establishing the criteria and procedures for the selection of the Director and other staff, asking the opinion of the Ministerial Council about the appointment of the Director and preparing the headquarters agreement with the Republic of Serbia.

6. The Contracting Parties shall appoint one representative and one alternate representative for the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community. Each Western Balkans Party shall inform the European Commission about its representative and alternate representative at its earliest convenience. The European Commission, for practical purposes, proposed to hold the first meeting of the Regional Steering Committee in Belgrade.
7. The Ministerial Council agreed that a temporary task force should be established as soon as possible in order to support the process of setting up the Secretariat and welcomed the assistance offered by the European Commission in that regard.
8. The next meeting of the Ministerial Council is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2018 in one of the Western Balkans Parties.

For the Ministerial Council



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Ms Maja Bakran, Deputy Director-General, DG MOVE

Chair