

Terms of reference and mandate of a Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation

Scope and achievements expected

In view to operationally implement the Joint declaration on Borders and Common Crossing Points endorsed by Transport Ministers and their representatives in 2018, it is proposed to set up a dedicated Working Group (WG) on Transport Facilitation which shall assist the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) in wide range of issues related to transport barriers with a special attention paid to rail and road border crossing issues but also to promote a more efficient use of ports (sea and inland ones) and terminals. In line with the objectives of the Transport Community and of the above mentioned declaration, the Transport Facilitation Working Group (TFWG) will stimulate the dialogue between the private sector and operators on one hand, with the national transport and other public authorities.

To reach this objective, the TFWG will work on the basis TEN-T core network corridors – with a special attention paid to the improvement of the efficiency of the terminals and critical border / common crossing operations – along the key TEN-T corridors.

In doing so, the TFWG will closely liaise, *inter alia*, with the CEFTA Committee of Trade Facilitation especially in regards to the implementation of Framework agreement between Customs Administrations of CEFTA Parties for simplification of inspections, exchange of data, and cooperation of trade partnership programmes.

Method of work

The WG is established on the basis of Article 26 of the Transport Community Treaty. It shall consist of representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Transport Community and shall be chaired in turn over by a South East European Party in accordance with the arrangements to be laid down in its rules of procedures. The Permanent Secretariat of the TCT shall provide the necessary administrative and technical support. The European Commission, represented by the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, is entitled to participate in the WG.

On a case by case basis, the WG may invite external experts and stakeholders to participate and/or contribute to its discussions and activities.

At its first meeting, the WG will adopt its rules of procedure, elect its chair, and adopt a work plan, clearly defining its objectives and activities, including a time schedule for their implementation.

The WG is expected to meet at least three times per year and to report to the RSC on a regular basis. The WG shall draw up a proposal on priority actions with a view to remove all non-trade barriers and strengthening the efficiency of the transport operations along these TEN-T corridors and submit it to the RSC by Q1 2020. The proposal shall contain monitoring procedures and follow-up activities.

The WG will coordinate its activities with those of the RSC and other technical committees.