

# TRANSPORT COMMUNITY PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

## 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation (TCTF)

**Location: Belgrade, Serbia**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

### **Agreed Conclusions**

- The members of the TCTF welcome the establishment of the Technical Committee and acknowledge the Terms of Reference and its mandate
  - The Permanent Secretariat will submit the Rules of procedure to TCTF members for comments expected within 10 days. TCTF elected its Chair. The Chair of TCTF for 2019 is Montenegro.
  - TCTF welcomes the Study on BCP facilitation carried out by CONNECTA which is used for further planning and prioritization in the area of transport facilitation
  - Regional Participants agreed to provide detailed information on the state of play of the rail BCP agreements and to indicate immediate steps that will be taken to move forward:
    - KOS and MKD to undertake actions to ensure that there is a clear decision by the time of Poznan summit on the signing of the technical protocols deriving from the Rail agreement
    - BIH to provide detailed information on the present proposal for joint border agreement with Croatia (contact will also be taken with HR)
    - ALB and MNE to inform on the results from the coming meeting of the inter-institutional working group
    - SRB to provide information on the status of the BCP agreements with MS.
    - Regional Participants requested from EC further assistance to address the open issues with neighbouring MS through EC DG TAXUD.
  - Regional Participants agreed to provide detailed information on the state of play with regards to the road BCPs as well as to provide feedbacks and comments for revision of the BCP facilitation plan, including timeline and assistance needed, by mid-October 2019. The Permanent Secretariat will update the Plan accordingly.
  - TCTF acknowledges the candidate BCP priority measures for the Western Balkans Summit in Poznan, and welcomes the financial support from EC which will be allocated to support the signing and implementation of border agreements, physical interventions and setting of IT systems.
  - TCTF members are fully committed to ensure smooth implementation of these TA and investment projects in order to effectively bring the benefits from the improvements of the conditions of the BCPs.
  - TCTF welcomes the Transport and Trade Facilitation Project initiated by the World Bank as it will complement the national efforts and the EC support (CONNECTA). The World Bank looks at to support concrete aspects of the areas of intervention where preliminary/preparatory work exists or is embedded in the work carried out by
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CONNECTA. TC Secretariat should have a coordination role in order to ensure synergies between the available assistance programmes.

- TCTF welcomes the contributions from RCC and CEFTA in order to achieve complementarity in the transport and trade facilitation agendas and in the aim to support the creation of a regional economic area
  - TCTF and CEFTA are encouraged to work together on the Strategy for joint border controls, one stop shop and joint equipment
  - TCTF encourages the Permanent Secretariat to include other public institutions in the work of the TCTF, as well as the private sector, including operators, ports and terminals (transport industry)
  - Upon contributions from all parties, including the private sector and by using the results of various on-going/completed studies, the Permanent Secretariat shall foresee to prepare an overall action plan for transport facilitation which will look to propose detailed actions to sought most of the non-physical barriers along logistic corridors (supply chain approach), in coordination with the existing ongoing actions and to present it on the next meeting of TCTF
  - Next TCTF meeting is proposed to take place at mid October 2019 in Pristina.
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