

## **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation**

**Location: Pristina**

**17.10. 2019**

### **Conclusions**

#### General conclusions

- The technical committee on transport facilitation (TCTF) welcomes the request for regional TA services on BCP facilitation, in form of two applications prepared by the TC Secretariat with the support of CONNECTA and which will be carried out by CONNECTA. The applications are:
    - 1) TA for design of common facilities on selected road border crossing points on the core TEN-T network in the Western Balkans (Hani I Elezit/Blace, Dobrakovo/Gostun and Bijaca/Nova Sela). The application will be effective upon signature of bilateral agreements/protocols for one stop shop controls.
    - 2) TA for establishing electronic queueing management system (eQMS) on Corridor X (Orient East Med corridor).
  - The TCTF members are committed to provide full support to the CONNECTA project teams, in order to:
    - define the specific elements of the Scope of Work during the scoping stage, focusing on site inspections of the three proposed pairs of BCPs/cluster of BCPs on Corridor X,
    - assess the current needs for nature of joint facilities and interventions (physical, information, IT technology), and the potential need(s) for carrying out any geodetic/geotechnical surveys, environmental assessments, expropriations and other legal procedures,
    - check the national procedures for design on site locations and the EU MS involvement
  - The TCTF underlines the good collaboration between Transport Community Secretariat and CEFTA Secretariat with respect to using the existing systems and/or putting them in close interface and any other. Notably, it was agreed that the design and implementation of eQMS system should take into account the System for electronic exchange of data (SEED) which is operational, and to explore the modalities of integrating the systems.
  - The TCTF welcomes the findings from the ADRIPASS project and shall look at the possibilities to include the Project recommendations and proposed actions for improvement of the connections of ports in the Adriatic-Ionian region with the hinterland in the Action plan on transport facilitation.
  - The TCTF encourages the future involvement of Chamber of Investment Forum (CIF) and the Chambers of Commerce of the six Regional Participants in the work of the technical committee. In this context, the TCTF proposes to foster the cooperation with them, with the aim of addressing the needs, and communicating and disseminating the results of transport facilitation to the transport industry and to the broader business community
-

- Next TCTF meeting will be held back to back with a dedicated Seminar on ports facilitation, to be organized in partnership with Central European Initiative (CEI) and to be held on 3-4 December in Trieste
- The TCTF would welcome a more regular presence of the MS of the region and asks the Permanent Secretariat to assess the way to grant their presence at the next Technical meetings;

### Specific conclusions

#### *Rail BCPs*

- It was agreed that for purposes of smooth implementation of the rail BCP agreement between ALB and MNE, both authorities should meet regularly in a defined time frame and work closely within the joint Inter-institutional working group on border issues to address any potential obstacles to the joint rail operations
- Authorities from KS and MKD need to finalize the negotiations on the Protocols for the rail border crossing agreement (BCP), and demonstrate progress on the issues which are pending for quite long time
- BiH, SRB and MKD requested to involve neighboring EU MS to be engaged on a more regular basis in the process of transport facilitation. They recalled that no response was given to their respective initiatives on concluding joint rail BCP agreements with MS.
- In this context, the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community proposed to facilitate the contacts/discussions between the BiH authorities and HR ones.
- In parallel to the construction of Corridor VIII (rail interconnection between MKD and Bulgaria), BCP facilities will need to be put in place. An ongoing inter-state coordination could also lead to a possible application for a cross-border project under Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) or Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF). The Permanent Secretariat will provide clarification on the CEF rules in due time.

#### *Road BCPs*

- TCTF welcomed the positive developments and establishment of one stop shop controls between MKD and SRB inviting both authorities to share some practices and statistics on the benefits of having joint controls at one of the next meetings
  - ALB and MNE shall further streamline the discussions on the extension of the one stop shop on Muriqan/Sukobing for freight transport, as well as at Hani Hotit/Bozaj
  - Transport Trade Facilitation project led by the World Bank is in establishment phase of the Project Implementation Units in ALB, SRB and MKD. A stronger coordination between World Bank and Transport Community regarding the financing of the priorities is essential in order to avoid possible overlaps.
-