

Agreed Conclusions of the 3rd Technical Committee on Railway

1. All Regional Participants (RPs) acknowledged the presentation of the 2nd set of actions for developing a regional rail strategy to the 5th Regional Steering Committee, Pristina on 16.10. 2019.
2. RPs welcomed the presentations of experts from DG MOVE, UNIROMA3, ERA and Croatia, concerning railroad level-crossings safety. The current/available solutions and best practises should be assessed in order to identify those that better fit with the aim of improving safety on LCs in Western Balkans.
3. RPs considered that the LCs seminar was extremely useful and in particular two aspects needed some further action:
 - The improvement of the coordination between rail IM and road IM regarding the maintenance of LCs which is very weak of non-existent at regional level;
 - The need to give a high priority to education about safety on LCs on all levels was agreed by all RPs.
4. RPs and EC agreed on the final version of Rail Action Plan for developing a regional rail strategy in Western Balkans, (except for the action mentioned under point 5., between the Republic of Serbia and Kosovo* which is the subject of harmonization). The final version of the Rail action Plan will be circulated to the RSC members for potential comments in view of its adoption at the next RSC and its further endorsement by the Ministerial Council.
5. The Permanent Secretariat will explore the possibilities to facilitate an agreement – at technical level - between Serbia and Kosovo*¹ about rail procedures on common crossing points.
6. Croatia will inform officially Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Serbia about the situation relating to the proposed rail border crossing agreements.
7. RPs endorsed the new format of the Progress report on implementation of Rail Action Plan for developing the regional rail strategy.
8. RPs accepted in principle the Progress Report on implementation 1st set of measures for the regional rail strategy. All RPs will send to the Permanent Secretariat comments and remarks, no later than 5 December 2019.

¹ *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

9. Regional Participants (RPs) will submit the information regarding the state of play of all actions set out in the Rail Action plan, by 24 January 2020.
10. The Permanent Secretariat will circulate - by 5 December 2019 - the guidelines for the tables of Annex 2. of the Progress Report on implementation of regional action plan. The RPs are asked to provide their input by 15 February 2020.
11. RPs expressed the need for technical assistance in order to improve safety on level crossings, starting with an inventory and characterisation of LCs in the region, ideally on the entire comprehensive network. The Permanent Secretariat of TC, together with DG MOVE and DG NEAR, will investigate possible/available solutions for a regional project. The Permanent Secretariat will circulate a questionnaire to collect information from all RPs in order to establish state-of-play, as baseline for future possible technical assistance project.
12. RPs also agreed that technical assistance is needed for establishing Rail Infrastructure and Assets Management System (feasibility study) as well as for exploring the possibility to use a joint Railcar to measure rail infrastructure parameters on the extended rail TEN-T comprehensive and core network, aiming to provide reliable data and set up efficient systems for planning and managing maintenance cost of infrastructure. Serbia agreed to share information about on-going project in this area. The permanent Secretariat will explore possibility for hiring existing equipment from EU Member states. The permanent Secretariat will circulate a questionnaire to collect information from all RPs in order to establish state-of-play, as baseline for future possible technical assistance project.
13. On the cleaning up of national rules, the technical committee acknowledged that this should continue under the umbrella of ERA IPA programme.
14. RPs highlighted issues related to TSIs implementation. The permanent Secretariat in coordination with DG Move and ERA will assess further the possibility to support this activity, possibly through the organisation of a dedicated workshop in cooperation with experts from EU MS in the region.
15. RPs welcomed the presentation of OBB and S2R.
16. RPs agreed that the Republic of North Macedonia will be chairing the TC on rail and the new Chairperson will be the representative of the Republic of North Macedonia, Ms Biljana Zdraveva.
17. Next year, it is proposed to set up four Technical Committees on Rail. Preliminary dates are: second half of February, June, September and November.
18. It is proposed that next TC on Railways to be held in Tirana.



Done in Belgrade on 22/11/2019