

# **Changing the Connectivity Governance in Western Balkans: The Transport Community's contribution.**

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# The Transport Community : moving from transport cooperation to transport integration

- Transport Community Treaty : signed in July 2017 in Trieste between 6 WB partners and EU.
- **Immediate goal** : supporting the transposition and implementation of EU's transport and transport related legislation in Western Balkans.
- Sharing **the same goals – but also the same values.**
- **Ultimate goal**: opening (under conditions) the EU transport market to Western Balkans countries, before their accession = fostering the accession process.
- In other words, the Transport Community is a **game changer** for the region to fill the transport gap between Western Balkans and EU and prepare WB to the accession.

# A new vision of Connectivity in Western Balkans

1. Promoting the **transport of tomorrow not the solutions of the past**;
2. Supporting a **long term vision and sustainable** projects;
3. Contributing to the « **Green deal** » for Western Balkans through targetted actions.
4. Taking into consideration changes affecting WB.
5.  $1+2+3+4 =$  **need to reconsider transport infrastructure priorities**. Objective for Zagreb?

# ***3 Priorities identified and agreed at WB summit of Poznan :***

***# 1 - Devellopping a regional rail strategy: **DONE*****

***# 2 - Strengthening road safety through a set of targetted regional measures: **DONE*****

***# 3 - Reducing border-crossing time (transport facilitation action plan) : **DONE*****

# ***Developing a Regional Rail Strategy***

- **Sharp decline in both passenger and freight;**
- **Poor quality standards (low speed – low service levels...);**
- **Fragmentation of the markets (small networks – many borders!), market opening still incomplete : no real competition!**
- **Lack of cooperation between railways.**
- **Administrative capacity missing to implement EU standards/legislation;**
- **Against this background, TCT has developped a regional action plan which aim is to revitalize rail transport along the key TEN-T corridors.**

## Main priorities addressed in the rail sector

- ☐ *Rail market opening*
- ☐ *Passengers' rights*
- ☐ *Interoperability*
- ☐ *Governance*
- ☐ *Border crossings agreements*
- ☐ *Modernization of rail infrastructure*

# ***Strengthening road safety***

- Permanent Secretariat's role : to monitor the situation and to **set realistic objectives** for each partner.
- Implementing a **Regional Road Safety Action Plan** is the priority for 2020.
- The **Action Plan** –adopted in DEC 2019 - comprises a list of priority measures – in addition to the ones already in place - to be set up by each partner and the timing for implementation;

# ***Transport facilitation Action Plan***

- Truck queuing at borders = **2 € x minute;**
- Loses for Western Balkans = **250-300M€ per year (5 times the amount spent for road maintenance in the region);**
- **Making border crossing more efficient :**  
removing infrastructure and administrative bottlenecks;
- Action plan covers rail and road, soft + infra inside WB and at border crossings with MS.

# What about the infrastructure?

- Suffers from **lack of investments and poor maintenance.**
- Investments in WB: **85% goes to roads and only 15% on rail.** TEN-T 85% rail/green transport and only 15% on road.
- Investments should relate to **quantified need, not only to political decisions.**
- Filling the connectivity gap in WB requires **alignment with TEN-T priorities, approach and values.**
- Priority should be given to **sustainable and innovative (and green) investments.**

# Main challenges (I)

- *Commitment of Regional Partners but also MS -> **KEY PRE-REQUISITE***
- ***Implementing TCT : benefits for WB6 and MS.***
- *Commitment of EU to do more for WB in particular in terms of **access to programmes and financing.***

## Main Challenges (II)

- Administrative capacity to implement the changes: **critical weakness.**
- Financing: **lack of available financing / prioritization of projects / coordination of donors.**
- New « players » in town...: are the Balkans becoming the new Wild West?  
**Non transparent rules – doubtful priorities – high risks for the financial stability of the region!**

# Going green: the contribution of the TCT

- *Strategies : rail – resilience – Intelligent Transport*
- *Redifining policy priorities : not only road but focus on rail – IWW multimodality*
- *Supporting the changes : providing T.A where needed.*
- *Coordinating donors (WBIF and other) to re-define financing needs and priorities.*

# ***Together Connected !***

***Information on TCT can be found here :***

***<https://transport-community.org/>***

***You can follow us on Twitter :***

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