

**Agreed Conclusions of the 4th Technical Committee on Railways
Belgrade 4-5 March 2020**

1. The Regional Participants (RPs) welcomed the presentations of experts from Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) and Serbian Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, concerning the transport of dangerous goods. The Permanent Secretariat, together with ERA, will assess the current/available solutions and best practices in the sector in view to share them at regional level to improve rail safety.
2. The RPs acknowledged that the transport of dangerous goods was a topic to address in priority, with a special attention to be paid to the following aspects:
 - Improvement of the level of education on transport of dangerous goods of all stakeholders;
 - The need to improve the level of communication between Railway Infrastructure managers and Railway Undertakings on national level, especially in the situation when accidents occur, in order to establish its cause in transparent and objective manner, and to prevent future risks; The TCT Permanent Secretariat together with RPs and ERA will explore the possibilities to further develop information sharing system on accidents at Regional level.
 - To need to raise the awareness on the importance of preventive measures regarding the transport of dangerous goods.
 - In addition, in the framework of IPA project 2020-2022, ERA will explore the possibility to further assist the Western Balkans on this topic.
3. The TCT Permanent Secretariat urges the RPs to submit the Tables of Concordances, after the official translation of the legislation has taken place. This will allow TCT Secretariat to assess the real progress on the transposition of the EU rail legislation. The deadline for submission of the current translated documents will be end of April 2020.
4. It was agreed to better inform the Regional Steering Committee about the outcome of the rail technical committee meetings and share the respective Progress Reports on implementation of the Rail Action Plan, together with the current reporting system.
5. It was agreed that the TCT Permanent Secretariat will start the preparation of TORs on improvement of safety on level crossings and establishing efficient maintenance system (RIAMS and Railcar for measuring network conditions). Drafts will be circulated to Railways TC members by the end of April 2020.
6. ERA already committed to provide technical assistance in the area of establishing electronic register of vehicles. In addition, RPs will provide to TCT Secretariat the needs in terms of expertise relating to the other elements of the Action Plan (interoperability for instance) which could be supported by ERA.

7. ERA will continue to provide support for the cleaning up of national rules.
8. A first version of the rolling calendar of activities – foreseen in the administrative arrangement signed between ERA and TCT will be presented at the occasion of the forthcoming RSC meeting.
9. RPs welcomed the presentations of experts from Shift to Rail and ERA.
10. The two RPs (Albania and Kosovo*) who did not submit the information for the Progress Report yet, should do it by 20 March. It is recalled that reporting deadline must be respected.
11. All RPs accepted Monitoring Progress Report on Implementation of the Rail Action Plan presented by the Permanent Secretariat of Transport Community. The deadline for the potential comments and remarks is 20 March.
12. The deadline for submission of information on Annex 2 of the Progress Report, will be by the end of March 2020.
13. The current Progress Report covers the overall progress on the rail sector. In the future, Progress Reports will be focused only on the progress occurred during the reporting period, every four months.
14. The deadline for submission of information on the next Progress Report, will be by the end of May 2020.
15. RPs are encouraged to allocate the necessary funds for the maintenance of the network, following – in particular - the guidelines prepared by CONNECTA.
16. RPs reiterated their request that the European Commission facilitate the communication with the EU Members states in particular as regards the border crossings issues.
17. The TC Secretariat will circulate best practices for PSO (Public Service Obligation) contracts from Montenegro, Serbia to all RPs.
18. RPs welcomed presentations from private RUs from Albania, Kosovo and Serbia which presented their experience and issues in operating in the Western Balkans. A summary will be prepared shortly by the TCT Secretariat.
19. The next meeting will take place in June, the exact date and place will be set at a later stage.

Done in Belgrade on 5/3/2020